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**CONSTITUTION**

**OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.,**

**PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., believing that men

of similar ideals of fellowship should bind themselves together in order to form a

more perfect union among college men; to promote the principles of manhood,

scholarship, perseverance and uplift; to further brotherly love and fraternal spirit

within the organization; and to protect the sanctity of the home and the chastity of

woman, do enact and establish this Constitution and accompanying Bylaws for

the governance of its members.

**ARTICLE I**

**NAME AND SYMBOL**

**Section 1** - The name of the organization shall be OMEGA PSI PHI

FRATERNITY, INC.

**Section 2** - The symbol of the Fraternity shall be the Greek letters

(OMEGA PSI PHI).

**ARTICLE II**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Fraternity shall be to bring about a union of college men of

similar high ideals of scholarship and manhood in order to:

(a) Stimulate the attainment of ideals and ambitions of its members;

(b) Disseminate and inculcate those ideals among those with whom its

members come in contact;

(c) Cooperate with the schools where its Chapters may be located in

fostering these ideals;

(d) Occupy a progressive, helpful and constructive place in civic and political

life, domestically and internationally;

(e) Prepare its members for greater usefulness in causes of humanity,

freedom and dignity of the individual; and

(f) Aid down-trodden humanity in its effort to achieve higher social,

economic and intellectual status.

**ARTICLE III**

**ORGANIZATION**

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 3

The members of the Fraternity shall be organized into Chapters, Districts and

such other subdivisions as may from time to time be established by the Grand

Conclave.1

**ARTICLE IV**

**OFFICERS OF THE FRATERNITY**

The officers of the Fraternity shall be Grand Basileus, First Vice Grand Basileus,

Second Vice Grand Basileus, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, Grand Keeper

of Finance, Grand Counselor and Grand Chaplain.2

**ARTICLE V**

**GOVERNING BODIES**

**Section 1** - The supreme governing body of the Fraternity shall be the Grand

Conclave. The Grand Conclave shall adopt and maintain Bylaws and Policies

and take such other actions as are necessary for the welfare of the Fraternity.

**Section 2** - The Supreme Council shall act in the place of the Grand Conclave

whenever the Grand Conclave is not assembled. Between Grand Conclaves, the

Supreme Council shall be responsible to the Grand Conclave for executing its

policies, decisions and mandates; enacting necessary policies between Grand

Conclaves; and conducting the day-to- day affairs of the Fraternity.

**ARTICLE VI**

**THE GRAND CONCLAVE**

**Section 1** - The Grand Conclave shall be composed of the Founders, the

Supreme Council, delegates from the respective Chapters and past Grand

Basilei.

**Section 2** - The Grand Conclave shall assemble regularly, but not less than

biennially, at such times and places as may be decided by the Supreme Council.

**Section 3**- Official representation from one-third (1/3) of the financial Chapters in

the Fraternity shall be a requisite to convene the Grand Conclave. One more

than one-third (1/3) of the Chapters present shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 4** - Other registered members of the Fraternity shall be admitted to the

sessions of the Grand Conclave, have voice therein, and serve on committees;

however, they shall not be permitted to vote.

**Section 5** - Voting Eligibility.

1See Amendment 1- Proposed amendment to Article III- Organization, 1990 version of document.

2 See Amendment 1- Proposed amendment to Article I-Officers of the Fraternity 1990 version of document

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 4

(a) Members of the Supreme Council shall be entitled to one vote each at

the Grand Conclave, and may not vote or act as a delegate of any

Chapter.

(b) Past Grand Basilei shall be entitled to one vote each at the Grand

Conclave, and may not vote or act as a Delegate of any Chapter.

(c) Each financial Chapter shall be entitled to send two (2) delegates,

each of whom shall be entitled to one (1) vote. When only one (1)

delegate is sent, he shall have two (2) votes if the Chapter he

represents is five hundred (500) miles or more from the site of the

Grand Conclave. Each financial Chapter shall be entitled to an

additional delegate with one (1) vote each for every ten (10) financial

members above twenty (20).

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 5

**ARTICLE VII**

**COMPOSITION OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL**

***Section 1*** - The Supreme Council of the Fraternity shall consist of the following.

(a) Grand Basileus

(b) First Vice Grand Basileus

(c) Second Vice Grand Basileus

(d) Grand Keeper of Records and Seal

(e) Grand Keeper of Finance

(f) Grand Counselor

(g) Grand Marshal

(h) Grand Chaplain

(i) District Representatives

(j) Three (3) Undergraduate Representatives

(k) Immediate Past Grand Basileus

***Section 2 -*** All members of the Supreme Council shall be members in good

standing with the Fraternity at all levels.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**DISTRICT AND CHAPTER OFFICERS**

***Section 1*** - The following shall be the officers of the Districts of the Fraternity:

(a) District Representative

(b) First Vice-District Representative

(c) Second Vice-District Representative

(d) District Keeper of Records and Seal

(e) District Keeper of Finance

(f) District Counselor

(g) District Director of Public Relations

(h) District Chaplain

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 6

(i) District Marshal

(j) Immediate Past District Representative

***Section 2 -*** The following shall be the officers of the Chapters of the Fraternity:

(a) Basileus

(b) Vice Basileus

(c) Keeper of Records and Seal

(d) Keeper of Finance

(e) Chapter Reporter

(f) Chaplain

(g) Keeper of Peace

***Section 3 -*** The Districts and Chapters may elect or **appoint such additional**

**officers as are necessary for the management and** conduct of their respective

affairs.

**ARTICLE IX**

**AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution may be amended only upon a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the

Grand Conclave, subject to veto by one-third (1/3) of the Chapters in good

standing.

***Section 1 Proposal of Amendments:*** Amendments to this Constitution may

be proposed by financial members, by Chapters, by Districts, by the Constitution

and Bylaws Committee, by the Supreme Council, or by the Grand Conclave.

**Section 2-**

The Constitution may be amended as follows:

Amendments to the Constitution proposed as here in before provided shall be

submitted to the National Office at least 120 days before the Conclave. The

National Office shall circulate the proposed amendments to all chapters in

existence at the time of such proposal at least 90 days before the Grand

Conclave. Such proposals shall be acted upon by the Grand Conclave, and shall

be considered adopted by a 2/3 s vote subject to the veto power herein after

provided.

***Section 2A -*** Within thirty (30) days after the adoption of any amendments to the

constitution by the Grand Conclave, the Executive Director shall send copies of

said amendments to all financial Chapters for their adoption or rejection.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 7

Rejection shall be by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the financial members present at the

regular Chapter meeting where the amendments are presented.

***Section 3 -*** Amendments to the Constitution. Shall be submitted the chapters at

the same time as the minutes of the Grand Conclave at which time, if approved

by two thirds (2/3) the vote of the Grand Conclave, such amendments shall be

declared adopted.

**Section 4** Amendments become effective on the first day of the seventh month

following the adjournment of said Grand Conclave subject to the veto power of

the Chapters as herein-after provided.

**Section 5** - This constitution and Amendments there to shall be adopted or

vetoed section by section and the rejection of any section shall not affect the

remaining sections which may be adopted.

**Section 6** Upon the adoption of this Constitution and any Amendments thereto

as set fourth in Article IX the Grand Basileus and/or the Supreme Council shall

authorize the National Executive Director to print said Constitution and

Amendments in book form for distribution to the membership.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 8

**BYLAWS OF THE OMEGA PSI**

**PHI FRATERNITY, INC.**

**CHAPTER I**

**ARTICLE I**

**ENTITIES OF THE FRATERNITY**

**Section 1**- The Grand Conclave shall be the supreme governing body of

the Fraternity.

(a)The Grand Conclave shall be composed of the Founders, the

Supreme Council, delegates from the respective chapters and

past Grand Basilei.

(b)The Grand Conclave shall assemble regularly, but not less

than biennially, and at such times and places as may be

decided by the Supreme Council.

(c) The Grand Conclave shall hear and act upon the reports of the

Officers of the Fraternity,

Committees, District Representatives, and special panels or

commissions established by the Fraternity.

(d)The Grand Conclave shall pass such actions as it deems fitting

and proper for the enhancement, perpetuation and general

welfare of the Fraternity.

(e)The Grand Conclave shall elect the officers of the Fraternity

and representatives to the Supreme Council as provided for in

the Constitution and Bylaws. Any member in good standing

with the Fraternity, except those holding International or

Honorary membership, is eligible for election to office, provided

he meets any specialized requirements for a particular office as

provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws.

(f) The Grand Conclave has the authority to levy International

dues, fees and assessments on the members of the Fraternity.

(g)The Grand Conclave shall hold a banquet in honor and

memory of the Founders of the Fraternity: Frank Coleman,

Oscar J. Cooper, Ernest E. Just and Edgar A. Love.

(h)The Grand Conclave shall have sole authority to approve

candidates for Honorary Membership in the Fraternity.

**Section 2** - The ***Oracle*** shall be the official publication of the Fraternity.

**Section 3** - The Supreme Council shall be the managing directors for the

general operation of the Fraternity consistent with the provisions of the

Constitution and Bylaws.

(a) The Supreme Council shall consist of the officers and

representatives elected by the Grand Conclave which are the

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 9

Grand Basileus, First Vice Grand Basileus, Second Vice Grand

Basileus, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, Grand Keeper of

Finance, Grand Counselor and three (3) Undergraduate-

Representatives; the Grand Chaplain; the Grand Marshal; the

Immediate Past Grand Basileus and the duly elected District

Representatives.

(b) The Supreme Council shall meet at regularly scheduled

intervals and take such action as is appropriate to carry out the

directions and decisions of the Grand Conclave and conduct the

business of the Fraternity.

(c) The Supreme Council shall have the authority to employ an

Executive Director and staff, as provided for in the approved

budget of the Fraternity, to perform the administrative support

and general operational tasks of the Fraternity.

(d) The Supreme Council shall give advice and consent on the

appointment of the Editor of the Oracle by the Grand Basileus.

Additionally, the Grand Basileus,

with the advice and consent of the Supreme Council, may appoint

an Editorial Board to the Oracle as he deems appropriate.

(e) The Supreme Council shall investigate petitions for new

Chapters and Districts and: (1) take action to approve or reject

petitions for new Chapters; (2) determine the name and

jurisdiction of each new Chapter it approves for establishment;

(3) refer, with a recommendation to approve or reject, to the

Grand Conclave all petitions for new Districts within the

Fraternity; and (4) recommend the jurisdiction for any new

District that is referred to the Grand Conclave for approval.

(f) The Supreme Council shall act upon matters referred to it by the

District Representatives, District Meetings, Grand Officers,

Undergraduate Representatives to the Supreme Council, and

Chapters which petition for redress from the actions of a District

Representative. Such referrals shall be to resolve questions of

policy interpretation, jurisdiction of entities, applicability of

Constitution and Bylaws provisions and proposed expulsion of a

member or revocation of a Chapter charter.

(g) The Supreme Council is authorized to approve or reject all

purchases of real property to be acquired in the name of the

Fraternity, consistent with the approved budget and directives of the

Grand Conclave.

(h) The Supreme Council is authorized to sell real property held in the

name of the Fraternity, consistent with the directives of the Grand

Conclave.

(i) The Supreme Council shall direct the publication of the Oracle and

such other publications and manuals as are deemed appropriate for

the welfare of the Fraternity.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 10

(j) The Supreme Council shall take such actions as are appropriate for

the efficient operation of the Fraternity as long as such actions are

not inconsistent with, nor prohibited by the approved actions of the

Grand Conclave or the Constitution and Bylaws.

(k) The Supreme Council shall make timely distribution of policies of

the Fraternity as approved by the Grand Conclave, as well as

program directives and operational guidelines established by the

Supreme Council, in a Policies and Procedures Manual for use by

the Districts and Chapters in regulating and conducting the

business of the Fraternity.

**Section 4** - The **Districts of the Fraternity shall be the governing bodies for**

**the Chapters that exist** in their respective jurisdictions as determined by the

Grand Conclave.

(a) A District shall meet annually to **conduct the business of the District**

**and elect officers as provided for** in the Fraternity's Constitution and

Bylaws as well as those created by the respective District Bylaws. Any

member in good standing, except an Honorary Member, of any active

Chapter in the District shall be eligible for election to the offices of

the District, provided he meets any specialized requirements for

specified positions as outlined in the Fraternity Constitution and

Bylaws and the District Bylaws.

(b) A District shall monitor and report the condition and activity of all

Chapters in its jurisdiction.

(c) A District shall take such action as is appropriate to carry out,

through the Chapters, the policies, procedures and program

directives of the Fraternity.

(d) A District shall take such action, upon the recommendation of the

District Keeper of Finance, to invest or liquidate funds of a District.

(e) A District, through its District Representative, shall manage the

Intake of new members into the Fraternity in accordance with the

policies and directives of the Fraternity.

**Section 5** - The Chapters of the Fraternity shall be the governing body for

the local assemblies of the members of the Fraternity. Chapters may only

exist at either an approved degree granting college/university or in a

defined geographical area determined by the Supreme Council.

(a) Undergraduate Chapters shall be located at accredited

institutions of higher learning and shall be composed of members

enrolled in those institutions pursuing baccalaureate degrees.

(b) Graduate Chapters shall be composed principally of members

not pursuing courses in institutions of higher learning and may

include college members, as well as those members initiated as

undergraduates but who lack a baccalaureate degree and who are

not pursuing such a degree at an accredited college or university.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 11

(c) All Chapters and all members shall be organized into Districts

for the purpose of administration. Said Districts shall be

determined by the Grand Conclave and shall be the intermediary

governing body between the Supreme Council and Chapters.

(d) A Chapter shall meet at regularly determined intervals to

conduct the business of the Chapter in carrying out the programs

and directives of the Fraternity.

(e) A Chapter shall elect officers annually as provided for in the

Constitution and Bylaws of the Fraternity and the Chapter Bylaws.

Any member in good standing of the Chapter, except an Honorary

Member, is eligible for election to office, provided he meets any

specialized requirements for specific positions as called for in the

Fraternity's Constitution and Bylaws and the Chapter Bylaws.

(f) A Chapter shall monitor and report on the welfare of the Chapter to

the District.

(g) A Chapter shall manage all funds collected by it in a manner

that prevents waste, fraud and abuse of resources.

(h) A Chapter shall recommend to the District those individuals in

their respective jurisdictions, identified by the Chapter, as being

well qualified for membership in the Fraternity.

(i) A Chapter shall receive as a member any Brother who chooses to

affiliate with it and who is entitled to affiliate based on his

eligibility.

(j) A Chapter with fewer than five (5) members in good standing at all

levels of the Fraternity shall be inactive. A District Representative

may temporarily waive this provision pending action by the

Supreme Council.

**Section 6** - The Brothers are the duly authorized membership of the

Fraternity for whom the Fraternity and its organizational entities exist to

support and nurture in friendship and brotherly love.

(a) A Brother may only be a member of an active Undergraduate

Chapter at a college/university if he is pursuing a baccalaureate

degree at that college/university.

(b) A Brother may be a member of an active Graduate Chapter if he

is no longer pursuing a baccalaureate degree at a

college/university; is attending a college/university that does not

have a Chapter; has completed a baccalaureate degree; or is

pursuing a graduate or professional degree.

(c) An Honorary Member shall be approved for membership and

inducted by the Grand Conclave. He shall be entitled to affiliate

with any Chapter with which he is eligible to affiliate, but shall be

ineligible for elected or appointed office in the Fraternity.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 12

(d) A Brother shall be an International member if he has paid

appropriate dues and assessments and has chosen not to affiliate

with any Chapter or District.

(e) A Brother may affiliate with any Chapter for which his status

qualifies him.

(f) A Brother shall not be limited in his membership rights and

privileges without being afforded due process with respect to

allegations made against him.

(g) Brother shall be in good standing in the Fraternity by paying

International, District, and Chapter dues and assessments for the

given fiscal year; provided, however, duplicate International and

District dues and assessments shall not be imposed by virtue of

multiple Chapter affiliation.

**ARTICLE II**

**DISTRICT AND CHAPTER BYLAWS**

The Districts and Chapters shall have the right to adopt Bylaws for the

regulation of their affairs so long as such Bylaws are not inconsistent with, nor

prohibited by, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Fraternity.

**ARTICLE III**

**ORGANIZATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF CHAPTERS**

**Section 1** - At least eight (8) members of the Fraternity shall be required to

organize and establish a Chapter.

**Section 2** - If a Chapter already exists in a geographic location, no charter

shall be issued for a subsequent Chapter in the same geographic location,

except on the petition of at least twenty-five (25) members in good standing

who would be members of the proposed Chapter.

**ARTICLE IV**

**ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Eligibility for membership in the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. shall be restricted

to men who meet the following criteria.

(a) Initiation into the Fraternity through an Undergraduate Chapter

requires at a minimum that the candidate have:

(1) completed one and one-half (1/2) or more years of college;

(2) a grade point average of not less than 1.5 on a 3.0 scale, 2.5 on a

4.0 scale, or 3.5 on 5.0 scale;

(3) certifiable status as a registered full-time student working toward a

baccalaureate degree; and

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 13

(4) completed such other qualifications as may be imposed by the

respective degree granting college/university at which the Chapter is

located.

(b) Initiation into the Fraternity through a Graduate Chapter requires at

a minimum that the candidate have at least a baccalaureate degree

from an accredited college/university recognized by the Fraternity.

(c) Induction as an Honorary Member requires that the candidate shall

have:

(1) exhibited extraordinary accomplishments in his personal and/or

professional life;

(2) been recommended for membership by the majority vote of the

Supreme Council; and

(3) been approved for membership by the Grand Conclave.

(d) The Grand Basileus and/or Supreme Council shall have no

authority to create or sanction any other form of membership.

**ARTICLE V**

**ELIGIBILITY FOR VOTING AT GRAND CONCLAVES**

Brothers shall be entitled to vote at the Grand Conclave as prescribed

below:

(a) Each member of the Supreme Council shall be entitled to one (I)

vote; however, no member of the Supreme Council shall be

permitted to vote as a delegate of a Chapter.

(b) Each Chapter, in good standing with the Fraternity, shall be

entitled to:

(1) two (2) votes; if the Grand Conclave is more than 500 miles

from the location of the Chapter, then one (1) delegate may

cast the two (2) votes of the Chapter; and

(2) one (1) additional vote for each ten (10) members in good

standing above the base limit of twenty (20) members. Each

additional vote shall be cast by registered delegates from the

Chapter not serving as the delegates mentioned in item (b)(1)

above. These delegates may vote only as a delegate of one

(1) Chapter.

(c) Past Grand Basilei shall be entitled to one vote each at the Grand

Conclave, and may not vote or act as a delegate of any Chapter.

**ARTICLE VI**

**REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES**

**Section 1** - The Fraternity shall operate on a fiscal year beginning

November I and ending October 31.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 14

**Section 2** -All Districts and Chapters shall operate on the same fiscal year

as the Fraternity.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 15

**CHAPTER II**

**ARTICLE I**

**ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE AND TERMS OF OFFICE**

**Section 1** - The offices of Grand Basileus, First Vice Grand Basileus, Second

Vice Grand Basileus, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, Grand Keeper of

Finance, Grand Counselor and three (3) Undergraduate Representatives to the

Supreme Council shall be elected at each Grand Conclave, and may not

succeed themselves in their respective office after service of two (2) successive

full terms.

**Section 2** - The office of the Grand Chaplain shall be appointed by the Grand

Basileus, with the advice and consent of the Supreme Council, before the

conclusion of each Grand Conclave or as soon thereafter as practicable.

**Section 3** - The District Representatives shall be elected for a term of one year

at their respective annual District Meetings. If no such meeting and election are

held as required, the Grand Basileus may appoint a District Representative to

serve part or all of the unexpired term.

**Section 4** - The Grand Marshal shall be elected by the Chapter or Chapters

entertaining the Grand Conclave from among its, or their membership, provided

that if said election is not prior to adjournment of the preceding Grand

Conclave, the Grand Marshal may be appointed by the Grand Basileus and

subject to the approval of the Supreme Council.

**ARTICLE H**

**DUTIES**

**Section 1 - Grand Basileus.** The Grand Basileus shall be the Chief Executive

of the Fraternity, Presiding Officer of the Grand Conclave and Chairman of the

Supreme Council. It shall be the duty of the Grand Basileus:

(a) To order the disbursement of the funds of the Fraternity as

directed by the Grand Conclave and to sign checks whenever

necessary;

(b) To require periodic written reports from each of the elected

Grand Officers and the Grand Marshal, giving an account of their

respective works for the preceding quarter and his plans and/or

program for the ensuing quarter. A digest of these reports, with

such comments as the Grand Basileus deems expedient, shall be

forwarded to each Grand Officer;

(c) To enforce the Fraternity's non-hazing policy;

(d) To provide information to the Districts through the District

Representatives;

(e) To require from each District Representative, at least semiannually,

a report of his work which shall include statements of

the activities of each Chapter in his District;

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 16

(f) To request such additional reports and information from the

Grand Officers and District Representatives as he deems

necessary to function effectively;

(g) To set and implement administrative procedures for the

efficient operation of the Fraternity;

(h) To provide annual reports and information regarding the state of

the Fraternity for dissemination to the Brothers;

(i) To call, by and with the consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the active

Chapters of the Fraternity, an extraordinary session of the Grand

Conclave, when the urgency of circumstances demands such

action. Should the circumstances warrant, and the Grand

Basileus does not issue the call, the Grand Conclave may be

called into extraordinary session by three-fourths (3/4) of the active

Chapters of the Fraternity;

(j) To render a full report of his administration and make such

recommendations on the opening day of the Grand Conclave as

he shall deem necessary for the good of the Fraternity. These

recommendations shall be disposed of by the Grand Conclave

before the election of officers for the succeeding term;

(k) To recommend appointments for the Office of Grand Chaplain to

the Supreme Council;

(1) To appoint a Grand Keeper of Peace at the opening of each Grand

Conclave, whose term of office shall expire at the close of the Grand

Conclave at which he was appointed;

(m) To appoint other such officers as provided for in the Constitution and

Bylaws; and

(n) To name Committees and appoint the Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and

members of the committees.

**Section 2** - **First Vice Grand Basileus.** The First Vice Grand Basileus shall be

the second in order of leadership of the Fraternity and shall:

(a) Perform such duties as are assigned to him by the Grand

Basileus and the Supreme Council;

(b) Exercise coordinating supervision over the activities of all

standing committees, see that these committees are functioning, and

provide the Grand Basileus and/or the Supreme Council with a periodic

report of the progress and work being performed by the several

committees; and

(c)Convene during each Grand Conclave at least one joint meeting of all

committee chairmen for the purposes of coordination and clarification of

the activities which

each committee is pursuing.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 17

**Section 3** - **Second Vice Grand Basileus.** The Second Vice Grand Basileus,

who must be an undergraduate at the time of his election, shall be the third in

order of leadership of the Fraternity and shall:

(a) Have general supervision over the Undergraduate Chapters

and help direct their activities;

(b) Perform such other duties as are assigned to him by the

Grand Basileus or the Supreme Council;

(c)Monitor and report the state of undergraduate members on a regular

basis and provide such recommendations as are appropriate for

corrective actions and enhancement activities of the undergraduate

members;

(d) Chair the Undergraduate Council, composed of the Undergraduatemembers

of the Supreme Council and each Second Vice District

Representative; and

(e) Serve as an ex-officio member of all standing committees to

provide advice and counsel regarding undergraduate issues and

concerns.

**Section 4 - Grand Keeper of Records and Seal.** It shall be the duty of the

Grand Keeper of Records and Seal:

(a) To have general supervision of the administrative offices of the

Fraternity;

(b) To keep strict record of the proceedings of the Grand Conclave and to

send a report of same to each Grand Officer and to all the Chapters

within ninety

(90) days after the close of the Grand Conclave and to file a copy of the

report with the official records of the Fraternity;

(c)To give a report during the first Plenary Session of the Grand Conclave

which expressly states all matters referred by the preceding Grand

Conclave to the Supreme Council, or to any Standing or Special

Committee;

(d) To keep an accurate history of the Fraternity covering the period of his

term of office and, upon leaving office, to file the document with the

permanent records of the Fraternity;

(e) To send the family of a deceased member an appropriate

letter of condolence in the name of the Fraternity immediately upon

receipt of notice of the death of the member;

(f) To publish in the next issue of the Oracle an appropriate testimonial to

a deceased member after notice the death of the member;

(g) To cause the creation of and maintain such system of records

and documentation as might be required to ensure the efficient

operation of the Fraternity;

(h) To perform other secretarial duties of the Supreme Council at the

direction of the Grand Basileus;

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 18

(i) To keep strict record of the proceedings of the Supreme Council

meetings and to send a report of same to each Grand Officer within

ninety (90) days after the close of the Supreme Council meeting and to

file a copy of the report with the official records of the Fraternity;

(j) To act as an ex-officio member of the Reclamation and Retention

Committee and perform related duties in connection therewith;

(k) To have custody of all paraphernalia and property of the

Fraternity and render an annual statement to the Fraternity

concerning same; and

(1) To sign orders from the Grand Basileus to the Grand

Keeper of Finance for the disbursement of funds of the

Fraternity, to keep a record of the expenditures authorized by the

Fraternity and to act as an alternate signatory when necessary.

**Section 5** - **Grand Keeper of Finance.** The Grand Keeper of Finance

shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the Fraternity. It shall be the duty of

the Grand Keeper of Finance:

(a) To receive and account for all funds of the Fraternity;

(b) To provide regular accurate reports of the financial status of the

Fraternity to the Brothers;

(c) To ensure that surety bonds are secured covering all necessary

Grand Officers and staff; and

(d) To disburse the funds of the Fraternity on order from the Grand

Basileus countersigned by the Grand Keeper of Records and

Seal.

**Section 6- Grand Counselor.** The Grand Counselor shall be an attorney

duly licensed to practice law. He shall be provided with a reasonable

budget and allowed compensation for extraordinary service rendered,

when recommended by the Supreme Council. He shall perform the

following duties:

(a) Give counsel and advice to the Supreme Council and the Grand

Conclave on all legal matters;

(b) Review for legal sufficiency all contracts, bonds, employment

agreements or other such instruments which bind or create

financial commitments for the Fraternity;

(c) Upon a showing of expediency and with the approval of the

Supreme Council, appoint an assistant, preferably an Omega

Man, to handle a particular case or assignment; and

(d) Represent the Fraternity in all matters pertaining to loans and financing

of Chapter houses by the Fraternity.

**Section 7**- **Undergraduate Representatives.** The Undergraduate

Representatives, who must be undergraduates at the time of their election, shall

report to the Second Vice Grand Basileus.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 19

(a) The Undergraduate Representatives shall assist the Second Vice

Grand Basileus with the general supervision of the Undergraduate

Chapters and shall help direct their activities. They shall also perform

such other duties as are assigned to them by the Grand Basileus and

the Supreme Council.

(b) Each Undergraduate Representative shall be responsible for

maintaining contact and keeping up to date with the activities of one-third

(1/3) of the undergraduate population (divided by Districts) of the

Fraternity. The final decision of the division of the Districts shall be made

by the Second Vice Grand Basileus.

(c)At least semi-annually, each Undergraduate Representative shall report

to the Grand Basileus, the Second Vice Grand Basileus and the

Supreme Council regarding the progress of their assigned Districts and

the undergraduate Brothers therein.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 20

**ARTICLE III**

**APPOINTED OFFICERS**

**Section 1 - Grand Chaplain.** The Grand Chaplain shall be the spiritual advisor

of the Fraternity and shall:

(a) Provide inspirational advice and guidance to the Supreme Council

and the Grand Conclave;

(b) Provide direction and cause the annual commemoration of the passing

of Brothers; and

(c)Provide guidance and assistance to Districts and Chapters as

necessary.

**Section 2 - Grand Marshal**. It shall be the duty of the Grand Marshal to:

(a)Make all local arrangements for hosting a Grand Conclave, in

conjunction with the Grand Basileus, Executive Director and

the Grand Counselor, subject to the approval of the Supreme

Council; and

(b) Submit a final written report to the Supreme Council at the

next regularly scheduled meeting following the close of the

Grand Conclave. That report shall be comprehensive and

shall be a complement to the Executive Director's report.

**Section 3 - Grand Keeper of Peace.** It shall be the duty of the Grand

Keeper of Peace to maintain order in all meetings of the Grand Conclave.

His term of office shall expire at the close of the Grand Conclave at which

he was appointed.

**ARTICLE IV**

**STAFF**

**Section 1 - Executive Director.** The Executive Director shall:

(a) Make a report to the Grand Conclave on the operation of his

office. Said report shall include the number of employees, the

capacity in which they are employed

and the total cost of operating his office;

(b) Make a report to the Grand Conclave of the total number of

Chapters, and the total number of Brothers in good standing;

(c) Place a copy of the report that he is required to make to the

Grand Conclave in the official kit of each delegate to the Grand

Conclave:

(d) Submit a written report detailing all pertinent aspects of the

Grand Conclave, supplementing the report of the Grand Marshal,

to all Chapters and the Supreme Council no later than the first

regular meeting of the Supreme Council following the

adjournment of said Conclave; and

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 21

(e) Perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the Grand

Basileus and the Supreme Council.

**Section 2 -Assistant Executive Director.** The Assistant Executive Director

shall perform such duties as are assigned to him by the Executive Director and

the Supreme Council. His salary shall be budgeted by the Grand Conclave and

set by the Supreme Council.

**Section 3 - Editor of the Oracle.** It shall be the duty of the Editor of the Oracle

to:

(a) Edit, publish and distribute the *Oracle* at least quarterly each year

to members in good standing, and to other persons and institutions

approved by the Supreme Council;

(b) Employ such staff members as are necessary to conduct his

office, within the limits of his budget;

(c)Include a list of all Chapters, together with the Basileus and Keeper of

Records and Seal and the mailing address, in each issue of the

*Oracle;* and

(d) Work cooperatively with the Editorial Board in ensuring that the

*Oracle is* a quality publication.

**ARTICLE V**

**BONDS**

Surety bonds shall be purchased for appropriate Grand Officers and staff.

**ARTICLE VI**

**SUCCESSION AND REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1**-In the event of death or disability, the succession to the Grand

Basileus shall be: First Vice Grand Basileus, Second Vice Grand Basileus,

Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, Grand Keeper of Finance and Grand

Counselor. The remaining members of the Supreme Council shall meet to elect

a chief executive officer until the next Grand Conclave, if none of the above is

available to serve.

**Section 2** - In the case of the disability of other officers to properly perform their

respective duties, the Grand Basileus, by and with the consent of the Supreme

Council, or the Basileus of a Chapter, as the case may be, shall appoint a

successor.

**Section 3** - Grand Officers may be removed from office for cause.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 22

**ARTICLE VII**

**REMOVAL OF APPOINTED PERSONNEL**

In the event that any member of a commission or authority, or any person

appointed by the Grand Basileus to perform services for the Fraternity shall

become incapacitated, or should resign before expiration of his term of

office, or if he fails to perform his duties in a manner satisfactory to the

Fraternity, the Grand Basileus, by and with the consent of the Supreme

Council, shall appoint a successor for such disabled or resigning member for

the unexpired term of said member. In the case of disability, the Supreme

Council shall determine when the disability begins and ends.

**CHAPTER III**

**DISTRICTS**

**ARTICLE I DISTRICT OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES**

**Section 1** - **District Representatives.** It shall be the duty of each of the District

Representatives:

(a) To order disbursement of funds as directed by the District;

(b) To supervise the various Chapters of the Fraternity within his

jurisdiction;

(c) To approve candidates for initiation;

(d) To supervise in person or by proxy all initiations within his District and

promptly report all actions with reference to initiations to the Grand

Keeper of Records and Seal;

(e) To require from each Chapter a quarterly report of its operation which

shall contain?

(1) a concise statement of the constructive work being done by the

Chapter in the school life, or in the case of a Graduate Chapter, in

the civic life of the community;

(2) a program of the future plans of the Chapter and suggestions for

the constructive development of the Fraternity; and

(3) a brief statement of the personal achievements of the individual

members of the Chapter. He shall report same to the Grand

Basileus;

(f) To call an annual meeting of all Chapters in his District;

(g) To ensure that each Chapter is regularly visited by him or his designee

and that the books and activities of the Chapter are examined and

evaluated; and

(h) To suspend any Chapter located in his District or to declare any

initiation held in his District void. He must report any such action to the

Grand Basileus and Grand Keeper of Records and Seal for the

approval of the former and the information of the latter.

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**Section 2 - First Vice District Representative.** The First Vice District

Representative shall be the second in order of leadership of the District and

shall:

(a) Perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the District

Representative;

(b) Supervise the work and activities of all standing committees and

provide the District Representative with a periodic report of the

progress and work being performed by the several committees;

and

(c) Cause the committees to develop and issue goals and objectives

for each year as a guide to the Chapter for their local operations.

**Section 3 - Second Vice District Representative.** The Second Vice

District Representative, who must be an undergraduate at the time of his

election, shall be the third in order of leadership of the District and shall:

(a) Have general supervision over the undergraduate Chapters in the

District;

(b) Perform other such duties as are assigned to him by the District

Representative;

(c) Monitor and report the state of undergraduate members of the

District on a regular basis and such recommendations as are

appropriate for corrective actions or enhancement activities of the

undergraduate Brothers; and

(d) Serve as an ex-officio member of all standing committees of the

District to provide advice and counsel regarding undergraduate

issues and concerns.

**Section 4 - District Keeper of Records and Seal.** The District Keeper of

Records and Seal is the administrative officer of the District and shall:

(a) Keep strict records of the proceedings of the District meeting and

send a copy to each District Officer and to all Chapters of the

District and archive a file copy;

(b) To cause the creation of and maintain such systems of records and

documentation as might be required for efficient operation of the

District;

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 24

(c) To review and countersign all requests for disbursement of funds of the

District and refer them to the District Representative for dispensation; and

(d) To ensure that all required training developed and implemented by the

Fraternity is conducted in the District.

**Section 5 - District Keeper of Finance.** The District Keeper of Finance shall be

the financial officer of the District and shall:

(a) Receive and account for all funds of the District;

(b) Take control of and maintain all financial record and instruments of

the District;

(c) Disburse the funds of the District on order from the District

Representative, countersigned by **the District Keeper of Records**

**and Seal; and**

(d) Provide regular, accurate reports of the financial status of the

District.

**Section 6 - District Chaplain.** The District Chaplain shall be the spiritual advisor

of the District and shall:

(a) **Provide inspirational advice and guidance to the District; and**

(b) Provide assistance to Chapters for annual commemoration of the passing

of Brothers in the District.

Section 7 -District Counselor - The District Counselor shall be an attorney

duly licensed to practice law within the boundaries of his District and shall

perform the following duties:

(a) Give counsel and advice to the District on all legal matters; and

(b) Assure that the District is represented in appropriate legal matters and

work closely with the Grand Counselor.

**Section 8 - District Director of Public Relations.** It shall be the duty of the

District Director of Public Relations to:

(a) Periodically edit and publish pertinent information about the District;

(b) Submit articles from his District to the Editor of the Oracle for publication.

**Section 9 - District Marshal** It shall be the duty of the District Marshal to:

(a) Make all local arrangements for holding a District meeting in conjunction

with the District Representative; and

(b) Submit a final written report to the District following the close of the

meeting.

**ARTICLE II**

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 25

**OTHER OFFICERS OR PERSONNEL**

**Section 1- District Keeper of Peace.** Each District shall elect or appoint a

District Keeper of Peace. It shall be the duty of the District Keeper of Peace to

maintain order in all meetings of the District.

**Section 2 - Other.** The Districts may elect or appoint such other officers or

personnel as are necessary for the management and conduct of their

respective affairs.

**CHAPTER IV**

**CHAPTERS**

**ARTICLE I**

**CHAPTER OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES**

**Section 1 - Basileus.** The Basileus shall be the Chief Executive of the Chapter

and shall preside at all meetings. It shall be the duty of the Basileus:

(a) To order disbursements of funds as the Chapter may provide;

(b) To submit quarterly, through the Keeper of Records and Seal to the

District Representative, a report of the Chapter; and

(c) To enforce the Fraternity's non-hazing policy.

**Section 2 - Vice Basileus.** The Vice Basileus shall be the assistant to the

Basileus. He shall preside over meetings of the Chapter in absence of the

Basileus. He shall exercise coordinating supervision over the activities of all

standing committees, shall see that these committees are functioning, and

perform such other duties as provided by the Chapter Bylaws.

**Section 3 - Keeper of Records and Seal.** It shall be the duty of the Keeper of

Records and Seal:

(a) To keep a strict record of the official proceedings of the Chapter and

the Chapter Charter;

(b) To carry on the correspondence of the Chapter;

(c) To receive all funds of the Chapter, keep a record of same and

deliver said funds to the Keeper of Finance immediately on their

collection;

(d) To sign and record all written orders from the Basileus for

disbursement of Chapter funds and to forward the same to the

Keeper of Finance;

(e) To use a standard form to collect the personal history of each

member of his Chapter and furnish the Grand Keeper of Records and

Seal and the District Keeper of Records and Seal with a duplicate

copy of such history, with additions and changes;

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 26

(f) To furnish the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal and the District

Keeper of Records and Seal such data concerning the Chapter as

the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal might consider necessary to

keep the history of the Fraternity complete;

(g) Upon the death of any member of the Fraternity, it shall be the duty

of the Keeper of Records and Seal of his Chapter to officially inform

the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal and the District Keeper of

Records and Seal of such death and to forward to him a biography of

the deceased member;

(h) To carry on such publicity as the Chapter might direct, provided that

such publicity shall be local in its nature; and

(i) To countersign all membership cards.

**Section 4 - Keeper of Finance.** It shall be the duty of the Keeper of Finance:

(a) To receive from the Keeper of Records and Seal and account for all

funds payable to the Chapter;

(b) To disburse funds of the Chapter only upon written order of the

Basileus, countersigned by the Keeper of Records and Seal; and

(c)To keep a business-like record of all funds received and disbursed,

and to submit such record together with all original orders for and

receipts for disbursements at such time as the Chapter may direct.

**Section 5 - Chaplain**. It shall be the duty of the Chaplain to be the spiritual

advisor and to conduct the religious services of the Chapter.

**Section 6 - Keeper of Peace**. It shall be the duty of the Keeper of Peace to

maintain order in **all meetings of the Chapter.**

**Section 7 - Chapter Reporter**. The duties of the Chapter Reporter shall be:

(a) To submit all articles from his Chapter to the Editor of the Oracle and

the District Director of Public Relations for publication;

(b) To submit to editors of local newspapers all Chapter news for

publication; and

(c) To carry on such publicity as **the Chapter might** direct, provided that

such publicity shall be local in its nature.

**Section 8 - Other.** The Chapters may elect or appoint such other officers or

personnel as are necessary for the management and conduct of their respective

affairs.

**CHAPTER V**

**ORGANIZATION COMMITTEES**

**ARTICLE I**

**UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL**

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**Section 1** - The Undergraduate Council shall consist of the Second Vice Grand

Basileus, the three (3) Undergraduate Representatives to the Supreme Council,

all Second Vice District Representatives and all registered Undergraduate

Brothers at the Grand Conclave.

**Section 2** - The Second Vice Grand Basileus shall preside over all sessions of

the Undergraduate Council, and if he is unavailable, he shall designate a

member of the Undergraduate Council to preside in his absence.

**Section 3** - It shall be the duty of the Undergraduate Council to evaluate the

programs and activities of Undergraduate Chapters, develop uniform

procedures for the conduct of Undergraduate activities and disseminate this

information to all Undergraduate Chapters. The Council shall work through and

with the respective District Representatives to ensure the implementation of

said procedures. The Council shall perform such other duties as assigned by

the Supreme Council.

**ARTICLE H**

**THE HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**Section 1-Personnel:** The housing Authority shall consul of five (5) members

and two (2) ex-officio members, the same being the Grand Basileus and the

Grand Counselor. The Housing Authority shall be appointed by the Grand

Basileus with approval of the Supreme Council.

(a) At least one attorney, one real estate broker and one other

Brother trained and experienced in matters of finance shall be

members of the Housing Authority.

(b) The Supreme Council shall appoint to the Housing Authority a

Brother selected from a list submitted by the Undergraduate Council

to the Grand Basileus. For the purpose of this section, no more than

one (1) seat shall be filled from the nominees submitted by the

Undergraduate Council.

(c) The Grand Basileus shall appoint the Chairman of the Housing

Authority from the membership of the Authority, with said appointment

being effective upon approval by the Supreme Council.

**Section 2 - Authority:** The Housing Authority is to handle all matters pertaining

to Fraternity housing. It is empowered:

(a) To control and supervise the purchase of Chapter Houses in the

name of the Fraternity;

(b) To recommend to the Supreme Council the making of loans to

designated Chapters for the purpose of purchasing Chapter houses in

the name of local corporations that said Chapters have formed;

(c) To acquire, by lease or rent, property for housing facilities or places

for meetings for Undergraduate Chapters;

(d) To solicit housing projects and proposals; to explore, initiate and

execute same; and

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 28

(e) To establish criteria, which upon publication, will efficiently and

effectively implement its efforts.

**Section 3** - The necessary expenses of the Housing Authority shall be deducted

from the Housing Authority Fund upon approval of the Supreme Council.

**ARTICLE III**

**THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMISSION**

**Section 1 - Personnel:** The Scholarship Commission shall consist of seven (7)

members and two (2) ex-officio members, the same being the Grand Basileus

and the Second Vice Grand Basileus. Said Commission shall be appointed by

the Grand Basileus with approval of the Supreme Council.

**Section 2 - Authority:** The Scholarship Commission shall handle all matters

pertaining to Fraternity scholarship awards to its members. It is empowered:

(a) To prepare detailed regulations, policies and announcements for the

placing of awards which, prior to publication and activation, shall be

made available to the Supreme Council for review;

(b) To coordinate and supervise the presentation of scholarships in the

name of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.;

(c) To transmit the names of candidates selected for fellowships and

scholarships to the Supreme Council with the recommendation that

they be the recipients of designated awards; and

(d) To make available to all Chapters, information on scholarship aid,

eligibility criteria, selection and deadlines to various institutions of

higher learning.

**ARTICLE IV**

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Section 1 -Authorization:** The Fraternity and each of the several Districts shall

establish and maintain the following standing committees: **Community and**

**Civic Affairs; History and Archives; Membership; Public Relations; Rules;**

**Social Action and Ways and Means.** When deemed necessary, subcommittees

shall be established. Each retiring committee chairman is charged with the duty

to turn over immediately all committee documents to his successor.

**Section 2 - Regulations:** The International Committees and Chairmen thereof

shall be appointed by the Grand Basileus with the consent of the Supreme

Council.

**(a)** The District Representative shall appoint the District Committees and

Chairmen with the approval and consent of the District Council.

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(b) Standing Committees shall be composed of not less than five (5)

members, one of whom shall be an undergraduate.

**Section 3 - Duties of Standing Committees:** The duties of the Standing

Committees are as follows:

**(a) COMMUNITY AND CIVIC AFFAIRS** - The Community and Civic

Affairs Committee shall elect an Omega Man of the Year and a

Citizen of the Year, prepare a high school achievement activity, and

set up a National Achievement Week Program in which all Chapters

should participate during a specifically designated period. Suggested

guidelines shall be provided by this Committee for local Chapters.

Also, it shall select the Undergraduate and Graduate Chapters of the

Year to be recognized at the Grand Conclave.

The Committee shall organize and develop the Talent Hunt

Demonstration at the District and Chapter level for final

execution and presentation at the Grand Conclave.

**(b) HISTORY AND ARCHIVES** - The History and Archives

Committee shall call upon, inquire of, offer assistance to, and

encourage Brothers and their survivors to donate to the

Fraternity, for preservation and display, such artifacts and

memorabilia as they, in their generosity, may wish the Fraternity

to have and keep. The Committee shall convey, at every

possible opportunity, the love, thanks and respect of the Grand

Basileus, the Supreme Council, and Brothers to these loyal

distinguished Brothers and their families whenever contacted.

Where feasible, artifacts and memorabilia, when collected, shall

be carefully preserved, and, if necessary, restored and they

shall be displayed as the Committee so directs.

The Committee shall research and make known the identity, life,

practices, accomplishments and worldly contributions of persons

of African descent. They shall recommend such action as to give

proper recognition to such individuals.

**(c) MEMBERSHIP -** The Membership Committee shall be

responsible for drafting, monitoring and providing such

recommendations as are appropriate to insure that the process

and guidelines for the entrance of new members into the

Fraternity are efficient, effective and adhered to by all members

and Chapters.

The Committee shall develop and implement an effective

program to reclaim and retain members of the Fraternity. All

District Reclamation and Retention Chairmen shall be members

of this committee.

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**(d) PUBLIC RELATIONS -** It shall be the duty of the Public

Relations Committee to publicize the activities of the Fraternity,

internationally and locally, in all

fields of human endeavors.

**(e) RULES -** The Rules Committee shall submit recommendations

to the Grand Conclave for consideration. During the interim of

Grand Conclaves, the Committee shall keep the records up to

date on these recommendations based as mandates, and shall

advise the Grand Basileus and the Supreme Council of their

status.

It shall receive from the Executive Director, review and

recommend to the Grand Conclave, all proposed amendments to

the Constitution and Bylaws of the Fraternity that are submitted

in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws and that it

determines are in the best interest of the Fraternity.

In addition, the Committee shall, in consultation with the

Executive Director and/or such staff as the Director may assign,

identify and upon such determination, certify members of the

Fraternity who are eligible for voting at the Grand Conclaves.

**(f)SOCIAL ACTION -** The Social Action Committee, before

entering upon its duties, shall prepare and submit to the

Supreme Council for approval a program embracing social

issues, including those of International scope, and the manner

proposed in dealing with said issues. The Supreme Council, in

acting upon said program, shall set forth the Policy of the

Fraternity with respect to said international issues for the guidance

of the Committee, and a proper budget shall be provided

for the operation of the program.

**(g) WAYS AND MEANS -** In consultation with the Grand Keeper of

Finance, the Ways and Means Committee shall be responsible

for constructing the proposed budgets for the Fraternity as

specified in these Bylaws, and after giving due consideration to

the financial needs of each committee, said financial needs

being necessary to implement the charges and duties of the

several committees, shall make budgetary allocations and collaborate

with the Grand Keeper of Finance.

The committee shall investigate and recommend such business

opportunities and practices as would improve the fiscal and

financial status of the Fraternity and its members.

**ARTICLE V**

**Discrimination**

This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, gender, religion, age or handicap, military veterans, political party and sexual preference.

**AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS**

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 31

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Grand

Conclave.

***Section 1*** Proposed changes of these By-Laws shall be submitted to the

Grand Conclave by written resolution that states an interest to amend these By-

Laws.

***Section 2*** The adoption of a resolution submitted in this manner by a majority

vote of the Grand Conclave shall thereby be an amendment to these By-Laws.

***Section 3*** Amendments to the By-Laws as well as proposed or enacted

Constitutional changes, having been prepared and codified by the Executive

Director shall by him be mailed within ninety (90) days of the adjournment of the

adopting Grand Conclave to each financial chapter.

***Section 4*** The Grand Keeper of Records and Seal shall cause to be distributed

to each financial Chapter and each member of the Supreme Council a copy of

these By-Laws and the Constitution, including the most recent amendments, no

later than the end of June in each Conclave year.



THE

FOURTH DISTRICT

CODE OF CONDUCT

OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY

To be used as a companion document to the

Omega Psi Phi Member Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy

Version 2.0

Enacted at the 69th Fourth District Meeting

May 1, 2010

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# SUMMARY OF CHANGES

1. **4/16/2003- Ver. 1.0 adopted and implemented at the 62nd Fourth District Meeting**
2. **4/28/2006-Ver. 1.1 revised and adopted at the 65th Fourth District Meeting**
* **Title Page Amended**
* **Rewrite of Rationale**
* **Addition of a Summary of Changes Page**
* **Cross reference to the “National” OPPMCCDP**
* **Amendments to add clarity**
* **Inserted a new section on ‘Wrecking’**
1. **9/30/2006-Ver. 1.1a – grammatical corrections**
* **Created a table of contents**
* **Rewrite of Background and Rationale**
* **Inserted a new section - Obligation of one Brother to another**
1. **4/24/2010-Ver. 2.0 – rewrite and amendments**
* **Rewrite of all sections**
* **Inserted a new Section 13 ENFORCEMENT**

# BACKGROUND

**Following proceedings from the Fourth District meeting in the Fall 2000 at Youngstown State University, the 19th Fourth District Representative, Bro. Albert Jordan directed Bro. Dewey Ortiz, Mu Iota, to form a Code of Conduct Committee along with Bros. Lawrence Tolson, Kappa Tau, and Robert Wilson, Beta Iota, and to present recommendations at the Spring District meeting in 2001, Sydney, Ohio. As a result of the committee’s presentation and recommendations the Brotherhood overwhelmingly voted to proceed with the establishment of a formal code of conduct document for the Fourth District. The 4th District Code of Conduct was enacted on April 16, 2002, at the 62nd Annual Fourth District Meeting, Cincinnati, Ohio.**

# RATIONALE

The Fraternity today is an organization consisting of men with a diversity of life experiences. This diversity is attributed to variances in family structure, college experience, maturity, scholarly attainment, socio-economic background, religious orientation, age, political awareness, regional influence, induction process, and post initiation experience. These factors along with others contribute to the varying views of what it means to be member of this Fraternity which directly relates to conduct and behavior. As a consequence, the current state of diversity within the Brotherhood, created through nearly 100 years of unfettered Fraternal growth, has resulted in a lack of consensus amongst the Brotherhood on what is a standard in terms of behavior and conduct. The Ritual, Constitution and Bylaws, and the MSP process are by design do not deal with conduct and behavior. The Omega Psi Phi Membership Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy provides an overarching framework to draw upon. It is therefore by necessity that a District Code of Conduct had to be developed with the required specificity to serve as a standard reference for behavior and conduct and serve as a companion document to the International Membership Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy.

# AMENDMENTS AND CHANGES

Any amendments or changes may be presented at the Fall Council for initial review, to be corrected or modified and presented in second draft at the Winter Council for final review, and upon acceptance, incorporated into the Code for presentation at the Annual Council.

# GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

REF: OPPMCCDP Ch.1, Art. I, A,B,C

It is expected that all Brothers of the Fourth District support and uphold the institutionalization of this Code of Conduct and consider it in the same regard as other Fraternal documents such as the Ritual, and Constitution and By-Laws etc. It is further expected that each Brother will support continuing efforts to improve the quality, practicality and applicability of this Code of Conduct.

# ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

REF: OPPMCCDP Ch.1,Art. I, B

The Code requires that every Brother be held accountable for his actions as a Brother by every other Brother. Therefore, it is the expectation that every Brother be held responsible for adhering to and upholding the Code of Conduct and brings to the attention of the Brotherhood behavior of any Brother that is inconsistent with the Code of Conduct.

# DEFINITION OF “GOOD STANDING”

REF: OPPMCCDP Ch.1,Art. I, K,L; Ch.2, Art. III, B

“Good Standing” is defined as being financial in accordance with the local, district and national By-Laws and free from any Fraternity sanction, at the local, district or national level.

# MEMBERS THAT ARE NOT FINANCIAL

The strength of the Fraternity is based upon Brothers who choose to be financial and who actively participate and support Fraternity events, projects and programs. A member of the Fraternity who has not been in good standing by choice for a period of two years or more is to be treated with courtesy and respect but not extended the same rights and privileges as a Brother in good standing. Brothers are encouraged to actively reclaim non-financial members who are free from sanction and solicit their support for Fraternity events. For the sake of maintaining uniformity within the Brotherhood, members who choose to remain non-financial are not to be ‘challenged’, given the ‘grip’ or allowed to participate in any ‘Brothers only’ Fraternal activities. Conversely, challenges or use of the ‘grip’ initiated by members not financial or in good standing should not be acknowledged. However members who are not financial due to exigent circumstances such as illness or financial distress should be assisted if at all possible to retain their good standing.

# MEMBERS WHO ARE SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED

REF: OPPMCCDP Ch.2,Art. VI, Sect. 2

A member of the Fraternity who is under suspension or expulsion is not entitled to be acknowledged and treated in the same manner as a Brother in good standing. A member who is suspended or expelled is to be treated with courtesy and respect. However, a member under suspension or expulsion is not to be ‘challenged’, given the ‘grip’, allowed to participate in any ‘Brothers only’ Fraternity activities, or publically recognized as Brother. Conversely, challenges or use of the ‘grip’ initiated by expelled or suspended members are not to be acknowledged.

# STATEMENT ON IRREGULAR INITIATED MEN

REF: OPPMCCDP Ch.2,Art. III, B

Any man who has suffered through an initiation not sanctioned by the District Representative and conducted by the DR or his duly appointed proxy or whose paperwork has not been submitted, received, acknowledged and processed by the National Headquarters in accordance to the *current membership induction* *process* is not considered a Brother, a Man of Omega, and is not entitled under any circumstances to the recognition, rights and privileges as such. The Fraternity does not accept nor recognize the legitimacy of any localized or regionalized initiated men as brothers. Such recognition is contrary to the foundation of this Fraternity and mocks the sanctity of the ritual and principles upon which it was founded. It is the responsibility of each Brother in good standing to bring such matters to the attention of the local Basileus, Area Representative and District Representative for appropriate action.

# PUBLIC APPEARANCE AND CONDUCT

REF: OPPMCCDP Ch.1,Art. I, ,C,D,E,F,H,I

##  Appearance and Behavior in general public;

Every Omega Man, when present in the general public, whether on personal business or fraternity business, will conduct himself in a manner consistent with having a gentlemanly character, good moral repute and social grace.

It is unacceptable for an Omega Man to be attired in any manner considered to be disrespectful, socially offensive or that may cause embarrassment to the Fraternity. When speaking in public Brothers are to refrain from the use of lewd remarks or vulgarity.

A Brother’s conduct is to be consistent with one having good manners and social grace. Brothers are expected to refrain from public drunkenness, lewd remarks, the use of vulgarity and any other behavior inconsistent with the ideals of the Fraternity

### Appearance and Behavior at official gatherings not sponsored by the Fraternity.

#### *Other Greek Events and Civic Organizations*

Brothers serve as ambassadors of the Fraternity; the first impression can be a lasting impression. Therefore, Brothers are expected to conduct themselves in a manner expressive of the highest sense of decorum and social etiquette. Brothers are expected to wear attire consistent with the theme of the event or as requested by the sponsor of the event. Wearing of paraphernalia should be reflective of pride and good taste and not in a manner that would embarrass the Fraternity. Brothers are to respect the colors, emblems, insignias and principles of other Greek letter organizations and partake in no action that will berate or belittle their existence or the principles for which they stand.

Brothers are to remember that when attending affairs sponsored by civic organizations they are representing the Fraternity in the company of those that may or may not be familiar with this Fraternity or Greek Letter organizations. When in public, Brothers should greet one another with a firm handshake acknowledging each other’s presence, and should refrain from using the grip.

#### *Politically oriented events*

It is the responsibility of each Brother to ensure that any personal view expressed, political position endorsed, or support of any particular candidate is not construed or interpreted as that of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Brothers are to remember that the Chapter or District does not endorse any particular candidate or political party. However, we are duty bound to participate in the political process as citizens of this country who happen to be members of this Fraternity. .

### Appearance and Behavior at formal social gatherings sponsored by the Fraternity.

#### *Formal Gatherings, Dances and/or Dinner*

Brothers are to dress in accordance to the theme of the event, whether strictly formal or after five. The wearing of dress medallions or lapel pins are acceptable. The “wearing of the Pearls” is to be done in accordance with the directions prescribed in the writ.

#### *Informal Gatherings, Dances and/or Dinner*

For non-casual events, such as after five or business casual, it is inappropriate for Brothers to wear tee shirts, sweatshirts, jackets or casual headwear.

### Appearance and Behavior at non-formal social gatherings sponsored by the Fraternity.

#### *Parties/Dances*

In the case where the event is informal and not casual, Brothers are expected to wear suits with the donning of dress medallions or lapel pins being acceptable. If the occasion is casual then Brothers are expected to dress in good taste and not wear or display paraphernalia with vulgarity or images inconsistent with the ideals of the Fraternity. Brothers are to conduct themselves as gentlemen and refrain from being overly loud and engaging in the use of vulgarity or acting in a manner that could bring embarrassment not only to themselves but to the Fraternity.

#### *Public/Social Projects*

Performing a public or social project and the conduct displayed while doing so goes hand and hand. Brothers are to refrain from any behavior that would devalue the positive impact of a project has to the public. While wearing of paraphernalia may be appropriate it should be done exhibiting good taste. Negative images, lewd phrases or any display that would bring embarrassment to the Fraternity is prohibited.

#### “Hop Show or Stepping”

Step routines are to be in good taste, exhibiting artistic ability, imagination and physical agility and performed in a manner that would not draw embarrassment unto themselves or the Fraternity. Any songs or routines considered vulgar or degrading to other groups, persons or things are prohibited. Members who not financial or under sanction *are prohibited* to participate.

# CONDUCT WITHIN THE BROTHERHOOD

REF: OPPMCCDP Ch.1,Art. I, ,B,C,D,E,F,H,I,J

## Conclave/District Meeting/Conference

All active Brothers are strongly encouraged to plan ahead to attend district level meetings, *Conclaves and Conferences*. Brothers are expected to be punctual at all meetings and wear a suit or sport coat with dress shirt and tie. Brothers are expected to conduct themselves as gentlemen at all times and respect the wishes of the chair. During proceedings, Brothers are to operate in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order, respect the right of dissent and debate on the merits of argument and not personality.

## Use of the ‘challenge’

The use of the ‘challenge’ is to be used with the utmost discretion and only in accordance with the manner prescribed in the ritual. When in public or in mixed company, the challenge is to be given in close proximity to the inquiree in a manner to preclude eavesdropping and not draw attention to the act or discussion. If a Brother is satisfied after examination then he is to acknowledge his newfound associate as a Brother and conduct business accordingly. On the other hand, if a Brother is not satisfied after examination he is to acknowledge the individual with courtesy and respect and treat him as any other non-fraternal member. Under no circumstances is to enter prolonged examination discussion with another person, to do so is an act of indiscretion. Later, if the opportunity presents itself, the Brother may upon exercising utmost discretion, continue the examination to reach a more discernable conclusion. Again, engaging in prolonged examination is prohibited.

## Use of the ‘grip’

The grip is the Fraternity’s unique handshake used by Brothers as a form of recognition within the Fraternity, to affirm friendship and to establish mutual trust between one another. The use of the grip as described in the ritual is to be rendered only to a Brother that has been properly initiated into the Fraternity AND in good standing. Any Brother that has been suspended or expelled is not to be given the grip. Members, who have been inactive more than two years, could be extended this privilege as a conciliatory act to reclaim a member. However, inactive members that choose to remain inactive and is generally known within the Brotherhood should not be extended the grip. The grip is to be given with solemnity and in a discrete manner while in an upright position to ensure the “act” remains obscure from public observation. It should not be given carelessly or in a reckless fashion as to draw undo attention unto the act; to do so will detract from the reverence for which it was intended. When in mixed company a firm handshake given in the appropriate manner will suffice.

## Interacting with Brothers in Public

Brothers are to treat each other with respect at all times and conduct themselves as gentlemen under the banner of friendship. Because so much attention is given to how Brothers act and treat one another in public, Brothers are to refrain from any and all activity that is irreverent, lewd and unbecoming. Brothers are to avoid arguing amongst one another in public. Negative physicality, aggressive or threatening behavior between Brothers is prohibited. If a Brother is acting in an inappropriate manner it is the duty of an observing Brother to discretely inform the offending Brother of his inappropriate behavior. The offending Brother on the other hand is duty bound to heed to Brotherly consultation. Failure of an offending Brother to heed the consultation of another could fall under the scrutiny of general Brotherhood and subject to disciplinary action.

## Interacting with Brothers in closed meetings

Brothers are free to discuss private or internal business matters within a closed environment. In meetings that have a chair, Brothers are to adhere to generally accepted parliamentary procedure and respect governance from the chair. In matters of debate or discussion, Brothers are to respect the difference of opinions and allow for the expression of dissenting viewpoints. Brothers when expressing themselves should do so using common business discourse and refrain from the use of vulgarity and slang. Brothers are to refrain from personal attacks on other Brothers, grandstanding or frivolous debate.

## Obligation of one Brother to another

Each Brother is obligated to protect the honor and reputation of his fellow Brother. A Brother is forbidden to enter a covetous relationship with the wife or significant other of another Brother. A Brother is to refrain from entering into any personal relationship with an ex-wife, former significant other; sister, daughter or any other female relation of another Brother if by doing so will cause consternation or disrupt the fraternal bond of friendship and trust between the two.

## The notion of “wrecking” or “taking it to the green”

Any behavior or action where two or more brothers engage in a form of wrestling or physical confrontation as a rite of passage to attain recognition, respect, or legitimacy for being a member of this fraternity is antithetical to the concept of Brotherhood and Friendship. “**Wrecking” is defined as a one sided act of violence levied against a brother, additionally the communicating of such action (intent) is considered a threat.**  A**lthough “taking it to the green” may be considered a mutual act by those engaging is such an act, “taking it to the green” along with “wrecking” is considered inappropriate behavior and is therefore forbidden as an acceptable form of behavior.** Such behavior is not in the context as envisioned by the Founding Fathers; it is not the way men of like ideals and aspirations garnered by moral fiber and scholarly attainment, under the banner of friendship behave with one another. Any member duly initiated into this fraternity does not have to prove his worthiness as a ‘Brother’ by engaging in such negative behavior. On the contrary, Brothers are encouraged to openly communicate with, share information amongst and educate one another under the banner of friendship and fraternal love. We are our brother’s keeper, and any Brother who engages in

“Wrecking” or “taking it to the green” or similar acts or threatens another brother with such action is subject to immediate suspension with the possibility of expulsion.

## Dealing with Brothers exhibiting inappropriate behavior

Every duly initiated and active Brother is empowered to protect the integrity and honor of the Fraternity at all times. It is the duty of every Brother to ensure that a Brother’s behavior is in accordance with the Code. If a Brother finds cause to address another Brother on his behavior, he should do so with utmost discretion by reminding him that his behavior may be inappropriate for the given occasion, however by no means a Brother, in an attempt to address inappropriate behavior of another, is to escalate the situation that could cause further embarrassment to the Fraternity.

# ENFORCEMENT

A Brother with just cause is duty bound to bring breaches of this Code of Conduct to the attention of the chapter Basileus. The local Basileus is responsible to *hear* all complaints or accusations of violations of the Code. If upon inquiry, the Basileus finds merit in a complaint or accusation it will be his duty to discharge the matter in a manner satisfactory to the local body. If an accused Brother is member of another chapter, the local Basileus shall contact the chapter Basileus of the accused for remediation. If the Basileus determines that a violation is egregious enough or beyond his authority/jurisdiction he shall refer the matter to the District Representative for review and action. Charges of violations of the Code for District Officers while in the performance of their office must be presented to the DR. Charges against the DR must be brought to the attention of the FVDR who in this case will be the chief authority for the District in handling this matter.

# RIGHT TO REDRESS

REF: OPPMCCDP Ch.2

A Brother with cause may grieve to the fraternal body for redress of a charge of violating the Code of Conduct. The DR will handle the matter in manner appropriate to his office and within the guidelines specified for such situations as defined by the National Code of Conduct, Omega Psi Phi Member Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy, Chapter 2.

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