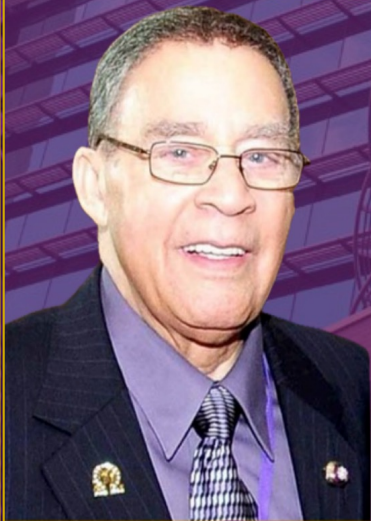


Version 9

Brothers First, Omega Always
Advancing the Mission, Amplifying the Impact



60th Anniversary

2025 JAMES S. AVERY, SR.

SHIRTSLEEVE CONFERENCE

A N D

SECOND DISTRICT

UNDERGRADUATE

Summit

Conference Program Guide

HOSTED BY UPSILON PHI, IOTA XI NU, RHO ZETA CHAPTERS

Sponsored By



Message from the **39th Second District Representative**



Greetings Brothers of the Mighty 2nd District,

Another year has passed, and here we are again conducting the business of Omega under the banner of the James S. Avery Sr. Shirtsleeve Conference. When Bro. Grand Avery called for the first Shirtsleeve Conference; he was not seeking another gathering for speeches, reports, ritual, or pomp and circumstances. He was asking us to roll up our sleeves, to strip away the comfort of formality, and face the problems and plight of the world today, juxtaposed with Omega's work. He spoke of bedrock, of going beneath the surface distractions to confront the matters that matter: How do we shape our District and chapters? How do we serve our communities? How do we prepare the young Brothers who come after us? As always, I am humbled to take on this charge and curate exceptional programming with the 1st Vice District Representative and 2nd Vice District Representative.

Today, we gather under that same charge. This is not a conference of ease. It is a conference of labor, a conference of deep-thinking, sharpened by the iron of each of and every one of us. A conference of men who understand that the world in which we live is often hard and rarely fair. However, we still know many hands make light work, and this work, the work of building better homes, schools, communities, and the fraternity, is our chosen way of life. The shirtsleeve conference should remind us that Omega has never been about aggrandizement, but of purpose, and aiding and uplifting the downtrodden.

To the undergraduates, the lifeblood of the fraternity, know that your summit is not just about passing the time in an idle meeting. Not at all. In fact, it is about carving your name out in the history books of the Mighty Second District. You all can shape the narrative for undergraduates into the future. This year, speak, act, and move with methodical precision. Also, seek uplift from our veteran Brothers, those golden Bridge Builders, with fifty-plus years of service. They will help to decide the questions that shall come before you. They will leverage their knowledge, not just memories, but they will listen and demonstrate the greatness of their humanity achieved through years of service.

Speaking of knowledge, greatness, and service, I would like to thank the Brothers of Upsilon Phi, Rho Zeta, and Iota Xi Nu, under the leadership of Bro. Basileus Cills, Hayman, and Humphrey, respectively. Further, I would like to thank the Shirtsleeve Conference Co-Marshals, Brothers Coppin, and Conklin. Lastly, I would like to thank our gracious sponsors from Valley National Bank, who valued the Omega brand in the 2nd District and wanted to build a lasting partnership beginning with this ever-important conference.

So here we are, 60 years later, still creating a Brookings institute think-tank environment and getting down to the bedrock of society and Omega.

Welcome to the James S. Avery Sr. Shirtsleeve Conference and Undergraduate Summit. May our work together honor the weight of his vision and push us closer to the Omega our people, and our Nation demand of us.

Yours in Omega Friendship,

Bro. Amir Shareef
39th 2nd District Representative
Mighty 2nd District

From the Desk of the **First Vice** **District Representative**



Dear Brothers of The Mighty Second District,

Greetings and welcome to the 2025 James S. Avery, Sr. Shirtsleeve Conference and Second District Undergraduate Summit! This year, we stand not only on sacred ground—but on sacred legacy—as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of this conference, a tradition born in 1965 and forged in the spirit of progress, accountability, and the enduring strength of Brotherhood.

In the mid-1960s, our nation stood at the crossroads of transformation. The Voting Rights Act had just become law. Malcolm X's voice had been tragically silenced. The March from Selma to Montgomery had laid bare the soul of America. And amidst that turbulence, Omega men—Second District men—gathered to refine leadership, sharpen our charge, and declare through action that we were not merely witnesses to history, but architects of a new chapter.

It was in that same year—1965—that our Shirtsleeve Conference began, not in comfort, but in commitment. Not with spectacle, but with sleeves rolled up and work in mind. It was Brother James S. Avery, Sr., a visionary in both clarity and courage, who shaped this convening into a blueprint for servant leadership in Omega Psi Phi. Sixty years later, the charge remains: we gather not to admire Omega, but to advance her.

Our 2025 theme—“Brothers First, Omega Always: Advancing the Mission, Amplifying the Impact”—is both an echo and an evolution. It reminds us that our fraternity is not measured by proximity, but by purpose. That our strength lies not only in our numbers, but in our alignment. And that is when we move in unison, we not only uphold the excellence of our Founders—we expand it.

I want to extend heartfelt gratitude to Upsilon Phi, Iota Xi Nu, and Rho Zeta Chapters for serving as this year's hosts and for their hospitality on the campus of Kean University. Their meticulous planning and passion have transformed this historic convening into a springboard for the future.

As we reflect on six decades of purposeful gatherings, may we recommit ourselves to the core ideals our Four Cardinal Principles that first brought us together: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. Let this 60th Shirtsleeve Conference remind us that our work is never done—and that is our greatest privilege. Because to be an Omega man is not simply to bear the name, but to live the charge, lead with purpose, and labor in love for the Brotherhood and the world we seek to change.

Brothers, let us make this a conference worthy of the past and a precedent for what is to come.

In Fraternal Stewardship & Eternal Friendship,

Brother Leon M. Smith II
First Vice District Representative

From the Desk of the **Second Vice District Representative**



Dear Brothers of the Mighty 2nd District,

It is with immense pride and deep gratitude that I welcome each of you to the 60th Annual James S. Avery, Sr. Shirtsleeve Conference and 2025 Second District Undergraduate Summit. For me, this moment is profoundly personal. We are gathered on the very campus where my own journey into this esteemed Brotherhood began. To now be in this role—serving you as your Second Vice District Representative—feels like a full-circle blessing and a responsibility I do not take lightly.

This Undergraduate Summit is more than a scheduled event—it's a defining moment for us as Undergraduate Brothers. It is a chance to step beyond our individual chapters and engage as one united force of purpose, potential, and passion. We come together not only to conduct the business of Omega, but to strengthen the ties that bind us and reaffirm the vision that fuels us.

As undergraduates, we represent the vanguard of Omega Psi Phi's next era. Every workshop, panel discussion, and breakout session this weekend is designed to challenge us, grow us, and prepare us to lead with excellence. Whether you are a Basileus trying to uplift your chapter, a newly initiated Brother finding your way, or a student navigating the pressures of school and service—know this: you are seen, you are valued, and you are not alone.

My hope is that you leave this experience recharged and recommitted—sharper in mind, stronger in purpose, and more grounded in the mission that makes Omega not just a fraternity, but a way of life. The conversations we hold, the knowledge we share, and the relationships we build here will carry forward into our campuses, our chapters, and our communities.

Let us embrace this moment as a sacred opportunity. Let us rise to the occasion, lead with love and logic, and show the world that the undergraduates of the Mighty Second District are not only proud men of Omega—we are architects of the future.

Welcome to Kean!!!

In friendship always,

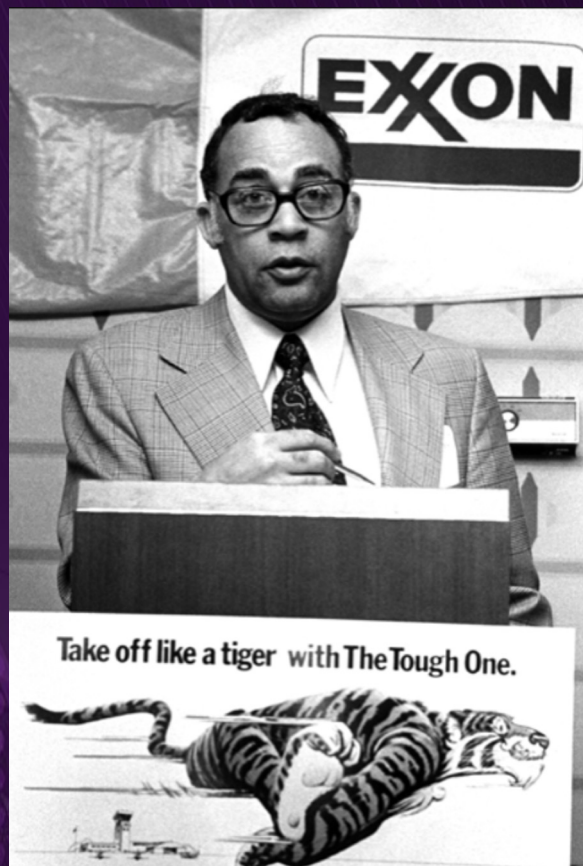
Michael Robinson
2nd Vice District Representative
The Mighty Second District
Rho Zeta Chapter



Proposing a 2nd District "Shirtsleeve Conference"

Presented by James S. Avery under the Report of the Second District Representative given to the Second District Conference held April 23 - 25, 1965 at the Park Hotel, Plainfield, NJ

"I realize that it is difficult to spend time in searching analysis on the opportunities and problems that face our fraternity at a District Conference. There are just too many things to do. Yet, there is need for such a special conference at which full devotion can be given to problems and programs. I shall call a weekend action conference within the next few months during which we will strive to get down to "bed rock" and come out of our labors with new vitality, new perspective to bring our aims into greater focus, making them more applicable to current needs and opportunities."



Review of the First “Shirtsleeve Conference”

Presented by James S. Avery under the Report of the Second District Representative given to the Second District Conference held April 22 - 24, 1966 at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel in Philadelphia, PA.

“Last year, at our District Conference in Plainfield, New Jersey, we set some goals that we felt were steps in the right direction. One objective was to hold a weekend “shirtsleeve” conference away from all distractions, during which we would strive to get down to the “bed rock” of Omega and come out with new perspectives and revitalized programming. We held this meeting September 10-11, 1965, in Princeton, N.J (hosted by Delta Upsilon Chapter). Thirty-four brothers, representing thirteen chapters convened at 11:00 AM for the start of this historic meeting. Our workshop sessions centered around five key topics: our chapter’s role in our communities, motivating youth, scholarship, requirements for graduate initiations, and the undergraduate pledge program. It was one of the most fruitful meetings that I have ever attended.”

Second District Council

Bro. Amir Shareef
39th Second District Representative

Bro. Leon M. Smith II
First Vice District Representative

Bro. Michael Robinson
Second Vice District Representative

Bro. Carl Bell III
District Keeper of Records & Seal

Bro. Mike Tucker
District Keeper of Finance

Bro. Darwin Beauvais
District Counselor

Bro. Anjuan Collins, Sr.
District Chaplain

Bro. Zanes Cypress, Jr.
District Director of Public Relations

Bro. Delrecole Gales
Immediate Past District Representative

Bro. Warren Cox
Undergraduate Representative

Bro. Jordan Gipson
Undergraduate Representative

Bro. Clarence Hayman V
Undergraduate Representative

Bro. Derrick Greene
Assistant District KRS

Bro. James Sanders
Assistant District KF

Bro. Jamal Parker
District Photographer

Bro. Richard Allison II
District Marshal

Bro. Dr. Darryl Blackwell
District Chief of Staff

Bro. Brian Long
District Special Advisor





Second District Committee Chairmen/co-Chairmen

Achievement Week	Brother Mark Edwards
Assault on Illiteracy Educational Development	Brother Clyde Cole
Audit	Brother Lawrence Dukes
Brother You're On My Mind	Brother A. Eboney Davis
Budget & Finance	Brother John Brisco Jr.
District Life Membership	Brother Waverly Debraux III
Fatherhood & Mentoring	Brother Matt Stevens
Fiscal Management	Brother Clifton Smith
Government Relations & Legislative Affairs	Brother Al Spivey & Brother BJ Hall
Health, Initiative & Awareness	Brother Jedan Phillips, MD & Brother RDML Cedric Guyton, PharmD
History & Archives	Brother M. Otis Fowler, Jr.
Information Technology	Brother Ed Hill
Investment	Brother Harold Hill & Brother Eugene Glenn
Membership Selection	Brother Troy Manigault
NPHC	Brother John Berkley
Political Action Committee (PAC)	Brother Bertrand Harry, Esq. & Brother Dr. Daniel Ebb
Protocol	Brother Eddie High & Brother Brian Long
Reclamation	Brother Damaas Stephens
Retention	Brother Gregory Grimes
Rules	Brother Gregory Bunkley
Scholarship	Brother Ricardo Morales, Jr.
Site Selection	Brother Pete Higginbotham
Social Action	Brother Dwayne White
Strategic Initiatives	Brother Joe Drayton, Esq.
STEM	Brother Tim Brown & Brother Clifford Johnson
Talent Hunt	Brother Andrew Huff
Undergraduate Advisor	Brother Brian Foster
Social Justice	Brother Qasim Rashad



Shirtsleeve Conference & Undergraduate Summit Agenda



Version 9

Community Service

(Friday, Sept. 5th)

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Hillside Warehouse (Food Pantry)

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM

The Apostle House (Newark Women's Shelter)

Opening Session

(Saturday, Sept. 6th)

(Attire: Purple polos and Khaki pants)

(Joint JSASSC & Undergraduate Summit Session)

Location: North Avenue Academic Building, Auditorium

7:00 AM – 7:45 AM

"Brother You're On My Mind" Friendship Walk

Registration

7:00 AM – 4:00 PM

James S. Avery, Sr. Conference Historic Exhibition

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

Continental Breakfast

8:30 AM – 8:35 AM

History of the Shirtsleeve Conference Video

8:35 AM – 8:50 AM

Opening Prayer, Greetings from District Leadership and Host Chapters

8:50 AM – 9:05 AM

Conference Call to Action: *Brothers First, Omega Always: Advancing the Mission, Amplifying the Impact*

Presenter: Bro. Anjuan Collins, Sr. (2nd District Chaplain)

9:05 AM – 9:10 AM

The JSASSC & Undergraduate Summit transition to rooms with **concurrent workshops**

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Heath Screenings

Blood pressure and blood sugar screenings conducted by **All About You Advocates**

Morning Session

9:10 AM – 9:55 AM

Workshop Block I

Concurrent Session 1A

Fatherhood and Mentoring Workshop

Presenter: Bro. Matt Stevens

Location: Auditorium

Concurrent Session 1B

Future-Ready Omega: Practical AI Tools for Chapters and Brothers

Presenter: Bro. Thomas Conklin

Location: Room 139

Concurrent Session 1C

Men, Babies, and the Law: A Historical and Real-World Examination of the Family Court System

Presenter: Bro. Michael Logan

Location: Room 115

9:55AM – 10:00 AM

Break

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Omega Memorial Service Virtual Viewing (Zoom Meeting)

Brother Dr. Walter F. Wrenn (Omega Chapter)

18th Second District Representative

Location: Auditorium

10:30 AM – 10:40 AM

Break

10:40 AM – 11:25 AM



Workshop Block II: Conference Sponsor Workshop

Valley National Bank

Concurrent Session 2A

How to Obtain Funding For Small Businesses & Entrepreneurs

What You'll Gain:

- Valuable information on how to prepare your business to gain access to business capital
- The value for having a banking partner & more

Location: Auditorium

Concurrent Session 2B

Residential Home Buyer Programs

Topics covered:

- The basics of home financing - Determining what you can afford - Learn about low-down payment options - Access to down payment assistance programs for first time home buyer

Location: Room 139

11:25 AM – 11:30 AM

Break

11:30 AM – 12:10 PM

Conference IHQ Workshop

Helping Chapters Develop & Maintain Robust Relationships with Potential Sponsors

Location: Auditorium

12:10 PM – 1:15 PM

Lunch (in order of years of service)

Two Locations: The Catina (1st Floor) & Room 606 (6th Floor)

Shirtsleeve Conference Agenda

Brothers First, Omega Always: Advancing the Mission, Amplifying the Impact

Afternoon Session

	<i>Upcoming Omega Social Media Tools & Insights from IHQ</i>
1:15PM – 1:45PM	Location: Auditorium
1:45 PM – 2:00 PM	Conference Photo Location: Auditorium
2:00 PM – 2:40 PM	Government Relations and Legislative Affairs <i>What? How? What's Now? What's Next?</i> Presenters: Bro. Derrick Greene & Bro. Al Spivey Location: Auditorium
2:40 PM – 3:20 PM	Reclamation & Retention: The 2 nd District Marching Towards 5000 Strong!! Presenters: Damaas Stephens & Butch Grimes Location:, Auditorium
3:20PM – 3:25 PM	Break
3:25 PM – 4:10 PM	Joint Conference Session #2 (Panel Discussion) "Bridging The Gap Between Undergraduates & Graduates Today...To Make a Stronger Omega Tomorrow: Part 2" Undergraduate Panelists: Bro. Bro. Warren Cox, Bro. Jordan Gipson, Bro. Clarence Haymen V (Undergraduate Representatives) Graduate Panelists: Bro. Ron Gonzalez, Bro. Bro. Alvin W. Keller III , & Bro. Roosevelt Turner Location:, Auditorium
4:10 PM – 4:20 PM	The Closing (Concluding Comments and Prayer)

(Attire: Purple Polos over Khaki/Slacks)

Second District Undergraduate Summit

Agenda

Version 9

Brothers First, Omega Always: Advancing the Mission, Amplifying the Impact

Morning Session

9:10 AM – 9:55 AM	<p><i>Real Queism: How to Properly Run an Undergraduate Chapter Meeting & More!</i></p> <p>Presenter: Bro. Derrick Greene (ADKRS)</p> <p>Location: Room 205 Multipurpose (2nd Floor)</p>
9:55AM – 10:00 AM	Break
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	<p>Omega Memorial Service Virtual Viewing (Zoom Meeting)</p> <p>Brother Dr. Walter F. Wrenn (Omega Chapter)</p> <p>18th Second District Representative</p> <p>Location: Auditorium</p>
10:30 AM – 10:40 AM	Break
10:40 AM – 11:25 AM	<p>Conference Sponsor Workshop</p> <p>Valley National Bank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Financial Foundations for Young Professionals</i> • <i>Summer 2026 Internship Program</i> <p><i>"The Valley Internship Program has been recognized by Way Up as one of the Top 100 intern programs in the nation."</i></p> <p><i>What you will gain</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eligibility requirements ○ The opportunity to speak with program managers on the details of the internship program. <p>Location: Room 205 Multipurpose (2nd Floor)</p>
11:25 AM – 11:30 AM	Break
11:30 AM – 12:10 PM	<p>Second District Committee Fair for Undergraduates</p> <p>Presenters: Second District Committee Chairmen</p> <p>Location: Room TBD (6th Floor)</p>
12:10 PM – 1:15 PM	<p>Lunch (in order of years of service)</p> <p>Two Locations: The Catina (1st Floor) & Room 606 (6th Floor)</p>

(Attire: Purple Polos over Khaki/Slacks)

Second District Undergraduate Summit

Agenda

Version 9

Brothers First, Omega Always: Advancing the Mission, Amplifying the Impact

Afternoon Session

1:15 PM – 1:45 PM	<p>Undergraduate Breakout Session</p> <p>Topics of Discussion</p> <p><i>“Developing Guidelines For the Undergraduate Caucus”</i></p> <p><i>“Undergraduate Fundraising Brainstorming Session”</i></p> <p>Location: Room 205 Multipurpose (2nd Floor)</p>
1:45 PM – 2:00 PM	<p>Conference Photo</p> <p>Location: Auditorium</p>
2:00 PM – 2:30 PM	<p><i>Young Men’s Health: How to Protect Yourself Against STDs and Promoting Good Sexual Behavior</i></p> <p>Presenters: Brother Jedan Phillips, MD & Brother RDML Cedric Guyton, PharmD</p> <p>Location: Room 205 Multipurpose (2nd Floor)</p>
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	<p><i>Men, Babies, and the Law: A Historical and Real-World Examination of the Family Court System</i></p> <p>Presenter: Bro. Michael Logan</p> <p>Location: Room 205 Multipurpose (2nd Floor)</p>
3:00 PM – 3:20 PM	<p><i>Close-Out Conversation With The Second Vice District Representative</i></p> <p>Location: Room 205 Multipurpose (2nd Floor)</p>
3:20 - 3:25 PM	Break
3:25 PM – 4:10 PM	<p>Joint Conference Session #2 (Panel Discussion)</p> <p><i>“Bridging The Gap Between Undergraduates & Graduates Today...To Make a Stronger Omega Tomorrow: Part 2”</i></p> <p>Undergraduate Panelists: Bro. Warren Cox, Bro. Jordan Gipson, Bro. Clarence Haymen V (Undergraduate Representatives)</p> <p>Graduate Panelists: Bro. Ron Gonzalez, Bro. Alvin W. Keller III, & Bro. Roosevelt Turner</p> <p>Location: Auditorium</p>
4:10 PM – 4:20 PM	The Closing (Concluding Comments and Prayer)

(Attire: Purple Polos over Khaki/Slacks)

Kean University Campus Map



DIRECTIONS

Garden State Parkway

•**Northbound:** Take Garden State Parkway to Exit 140, keep right and follow signs for Route 82 East towards Elizabeth (Morris Avenue East). Stay on Morris Avenue (Route 82 East), and Kean University Campus will be two miles down on your right.

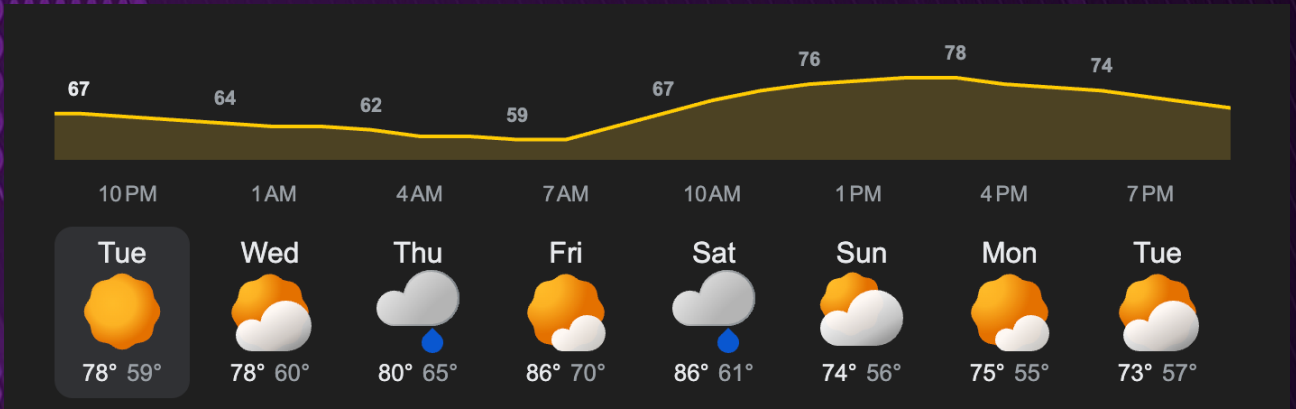
Southbound: Take Garden State Parkway to Exit 140-A onto Route 22 West. Keep right and follow signs to Elizabeth (Route 82 East). Turn right on Morris Avenue (Route 82 East). Stay on Morris Avenue (Route 82 East), and Kean University Campus will be two miles down on your right.

Train

From Union Station: Located at 900 Green Lane in Union, New Jersey, the station is directly across the street from Kean's main campus. Union Station is on NJ Transit's Raritan Valley line, which runs northeast to Newark Penn Station, and southwest to High Bridge in Hunterdon County.

From the Elizabeth Station: Elizabeth Station is located on West Grand Avenue, one block west of Broad Street in Elizabeth, New Jersey, which is just two miles from campus by bus or taxi. The NJ Transit Northeast Corridor and North Jersey Coast line trains stop there. The Northeast Corridor line runs northeast to Newark Penn Station and New York Penn Station, and southwest to Trenton. The North Jersey Coast line runs northeast to Newark's Penn Station and New York City and southeast to Bay Head in Ocean County.

The Shirtsleeve Conference Weather Report



AccuWeather Kean University, NJ 65°F

FRI
9/5



85° /69°

55%

Partly sunny and humid with a shower

RealFeel®	89°	Max UV Index	6.0 (High)
RealFeel Shade™	84°	Wind	SSW 7 mph

SAT
9/6



87° /62°

55%

Increasing cloudiness, very warm and humid; an afternoon thunderstorm in spots

RealFeel®	90°	Max UV Index	6.0 (High)
RealFeel Shade™	85°	Wind	SSW 8 mph

Additional Opportunities Available at This Year's Conference



- A team of nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians from **All About You Advocates** will be on hand to conduct health assessments which include free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings, along with basic physical evaluations. They will identify community members' healthcare needs, risk factors, and any barriers they face in accessing vital services and resources. Their goal is to ensure that everyone, regardless of their circumstances, receives the care and support necessary to lead healthier lives.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of America

- Members of Kean University's **Big Brothers Big Sisters** chapter will share information and mentorship opportunities

More Second District Support!

- Over 1000 books will be available for chapters to take back home to conduct local **"Read Across the District"** activities in November
- The office of the District Keeper of Finance will be available questions throughout the day

WORKSHOP

PRESENTERS

Conference Call to Action: Brothers First, Omega Always: Advancing the Mission, Amplifying the Impact

Bro. Eld. Anjuan R. Collins, Sr. was initiated May 24, 1997, through Beta Chapter, currently a member of Theta Nu Nu Chapter is an ordained minister in the Christian faith. Yielding to God's calling to the preaching ministry in May 2001 he preached his initial sermon on May 16, 2004 "Homecoming." Eld. Collins served as an Associate Minister at Bibleway Christian Fellowship Church formerly Bibleway Free Will Baptist Church under the leadership of Elder G. Wayne Parker from 2004-2008. While at Bibleway Eld. Collins served as an advisor in the Youth Ministry. In this capacity, he planned and implemented programs that helped to develop the youth spiritually, mentally, and physically. In October 2008, God answered Eld. Collins's prayers to enlarge his territory and he accepted the position of Pastor of Youth & Young Adult Relations and Christian Education at Lion of Judah Praise Temple, Inc. under the leadership of Bishop Kenneth Coles. While at Lion of Judah Eld. Collins was charged with restructuring the Youth and Young Adult and the Christian Education Ministries. In 2012, Eld. Collins joined In Remembrance under the leadership of Senior Pastor Tia Coutroupis where he served as the Youth Pastor. On February 12, 2023, Anjuan was ordained to the office of Elder in Gods church and is currently the Associate Pastor of Christian Education and Praise and Worship Leader. Eld. Collins teaches bible study and facilitates leadership training for ministry leads. He is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity degree with a concentration in Church Leadership at Calvary Chapel University as he pursues leading a congregation in God's church. Eld. Collins stands on **Galatians 6:9** *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season, we shall reap if we faint not.*



Fatherhood and Mentoring Workshop

Bro. Matthew Stevens Initiated in Spring 1996 through the Nu Beta Beta Chapter, he has served as Chairman of the Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee at the chapter, corridor, and district levels. His journey in the fraternity includes active membership in Nu Beta Beta from 1996 to 2002, Phi Upsilon from 2012 to 2018, and Eta Pi from 2019 to 2024.

His vision for the committee is that all chapters enhance their mentoring efforts through standardized policies and procedures in partnership with community schools, organizations, and agencies serving male youth and fathers. The goal is to provide comprehensive training in partnership with the MENTOR Organization, offer chapters a mentoring policy and procedure manual template, implement a standard software for evaluating and reporting mentoring efforts, and provide templates for submitting RFPs to city, county, state, federal, and corporate sponsors to secure funding.



Future-Ready Omega: Practical AI Tools for Chapters and Brothers

Bro. Thomas W. Conklin is a Certified Technology Specialist and multimedia professional from Brooklyn, NY. Initiated at Beta Chapter, Lincoln University in 1996, he now serves as Keeper of Records and Seal for Iota Xi Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. With more than 20 years in television broadcasting at outlets including MSG Network, Sports Illustrated, and Essence, Thomas focuses on practical, ethical uses of AI to streamline chapter operations and strengthen service.



Men, Babies, and the Law: A Historical and Real-World Examination of the Family Court System



Bro. Michael T. Logan, born in Harlem, NY in 1964 and raised in the South Bronx, has spent his life transforming adversity into advocacy. From a challenging upbringing that included placement in special education and early interactions with the criminal justice system, Mr. Logan defied the odds through an unwavering belief in the power of education and personal growth. A graduate of James Monroe High School, he went on to earn a B.A. in English from the State University of New York at Albany, followed by a Master's degree in Educational Technology. Over the past 40 years, Mr. Logan has served as an educator, mentor, entrepreneur, and tireless community advocate. Professionally, Mr. Logan began his teaching career in the City School District of Albany, instructing students in English, life skills, and technology. He later became an educational consultant and IT trainer for institutions including Microsoft, Hofstra University, NYC DOE, and Suffolk County Police Department. He also founded and led Omega Computers, Inc.

Helping Chapters Develop & Maintain Robust Relationships with Potential Sponsors

Brother George Fishburne, Jr. has labored for over four decades as a writer, senior adjutant, minister, inspirational speaker, project manager, and leadership growth and development architect. Brother Fishburne earned his Master of Public Administration Degree from Central Michigan University and a Master of Divinity from the esteemed Columbia Theological Seminary. Additionally, he earned a Bachelor of English Degree from the historic Florida Memorial University, which expanded and fortified his knowledge base concerning leadership, organizational communications, and structural design. He is presently completing his Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership at Walden University. Brother Fishburne is a Life Member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, and an active member of the Mu Mu Mu Chapter located in Douglasville, Georgia. He is the International Director of Program and Project Management at the International Headquarters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated (www.oppf.org).

He manages all Fraternity-wide programs/projects in this role, emphasizing efficiency, collaboration, and responsiveness in our partner/sponsor connections. He also has specific responsibility for providing onsite and ongoing support to our partners/sponsors who are allied with our suite of various meetings/activities, including the Fraternity's Grand Conclave, International Leadership Conference, Undergraduate Summit, Supreme Council Meetings, and other assorted meetings, retreats, and conferences of note

19

Government Relations and Legislative Affairs: What? How? What's Now? What's Next?



Bro. Derrick D. Greene is a political strategist and campaign consultant who has been involved in politics for over 25 years. During the course of his career, he has participated in more than 30 state and local races in various capacities. He is the former co-chair of the 2nd District Government Relations, Legislative Policy and VREM committee and currently sits on the International Voter Registration, Education and Mobilization Committee. Professionally, he has been a business analyst for a fortune 1000 company, an administrator in the public school system and currently serves as the Director of Government & Community Affairs for the City Council President's office. Bro. Greene was initiated into the fraternity in Spring 1990 through Gamma Chapter.



Government Relations and Legislative Affairs: What? How? What's Now? What's Next?

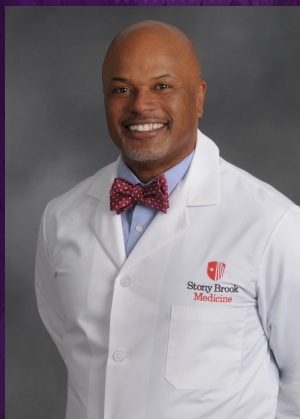
Bro. Al Spivey is a Senior Vice President The Spivey Effect LLC.. Spivey has been recognized by public officials, including Pennsylvania State Representative Joanna McClinton, for his commitment to service.

Bro. Spivey earned a B.S. in economics from Millersville University of Pennsylvania. He was initiated into the fraternity in Spring 1976 through Kappa Omega Chapter where he remains actively involved in the chapter's community service and advocacy efforts



Bro. RDML Cedric Guyton, PharmD, a native of Thomasville, GA, earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology from Albany State University and his Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from Florida A&M University. Before joining the Public Health Service, he worked as a pharmacist for Walgreens and Walmart and served on several Native American reservations in Arizona. Currently, he lives in Washington, DC.

As Assistant Surgeon General and Deputy Director for Commissioned Corps Services, RDML Guyton oversees the deployment, readiness, recruitment, career management, and training of over 6,000 active duty officers in the Commissioned Corps. He leads a team of 5 senior leaders and over 40 officers and civilian employees. With over 24 years of experience as a clinical pharmacist, IT program manager, grants manager, and epidemiologist, RDML Guyton has made significant contributions to pharmacy and program management, holding multiple leadership roles within the USPHS.



Young Men's Health: How to Protect Yourself Against STDs and Promoting Good Sexual Behavior

Bro. Jedan Phillips, MD is the Second District Health and Wellness Chair and a board-certified Family Medicine physician. He serves as a Professor of Medicine and the Associate Dean of Student Affairs at the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University. Dr. Phillips earned his Medical Doctorate from the University of Maryland Medical School and holds a Bachelor of Arts from Johns Hopkins University. Initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through the Chi Kappa chapter in 1988, he is married to his wife, Mia, and they have a son, Gabriel.



Reclamation & Retention: The 2nd District Marching Towards 5000 Strong!!

Brother Damaas Stephens was initiated into Beta Chapter at Lincoln University, PA, on December 5, 1980. He held several undergraduate roles, including Keeper of Records & Seal, Dean of Pledges, March Master, and was a member of the "Philly All-Stars" Step Team. His graduate roles include Second District Reclamation Committee Chairman, Corridor III Representative, and Basileus of Zeta Iota Iota. He is also a Charter Member of Theta Nu Nu Chapter and LIFE MEMBER #3997. Professionally, Damaas served as a Principal, Administrator, CEO, and Director in Early Childhood Education (retired). He is a 32nd Degree Mason and a Shriner with the A.E.A.O.N.M.S.

“Bridging The Gap Between Undergraduates & Graduates Today... To Make a Stronger Omega Tomorrow: Part 2”

PANELISTS



Bro. Warren Cox is a senior at Rowan University majoring in Business Management with a minor in Entrepreneurship. He proudly serve as Basileus of the Phi Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, and as an Undergraduate Representative for the Mighty Second District. Alongside my fraternity leadership, Bro. Cox is the founder of Gift of My Ancestors, a streetwear brand that reflects my passion for heritage and legacy. Throughout his time in college, he has worked to balance my academic goals, entrepreneurial pursuits, and fraternity responsibilities while remaining committed to service, mentorship, and uplifting in his community. Looking ahead, he aspire to pursue an MBA and continue building ventures that embody excellence, leadership, and social impact.



Bro. Jordan Gipson currently serves as “*Mr. Junior*” at Morgan State University and as an Undergraduate Representative for the Mighty Second District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated. In these roles, he has the privilege of representing both his class and his fraternity brothers through service, leadership, and advocacy. His involvement with the NAACP further reflects his commitment to justice, equity, and community uplift. Dedicated to strengthening bonds and developing as a leader, Jordan strives to equip others with the tools to advance their chapters, campuses, and communities. He hopes to continue carrying the Light of Omega into every space he enters, leaving a lasting impact on those around him.



Bro. Ron Gonzalez was 41 years old when he was initiated into the Mu Gamma Gamma Chapter in 2012 and has served as chapter chaplain, KF, and is the current KRS as well as have served on numerous chapter committees. Bro. Gonzalez is also an International and District Life Member. Ron worked in the Housing and Facilities Departments at Rutgers University for 17 years. A former student at Rutgers, Ron returned back to school after the passing of his mother to take classes, one or two a semester, until he graduated in 2004 with a BA in Liberal Arts (African American Studies). He also held positions in Management at Rutgers University (2004-2011), Amazon (2012-2013), and the US Postal Service (2016-Current). He is currently working at the Lehigh Valley Processing and Distribution Center for the USPS but has also worked in the Harrisburg Processing and Distribution Center. Ron still lives in Bethlehem, PA with his wife of 31 years and two adult sons. He also has a Daughter and 4 grandchildren living in Georgia. He is a member of Shiloh Baptist Church in Easton, PA. He loves all sports, including football, basketball, and golf.

“Bridging The Gap Between Undergraduates & Graduates Today... To Make a Stronger Omega Tomorrow: Part 2”

PANELISTS



Bro. Clarence Hayman V is the current Basileus of the Rho Zeta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. A Fall 2023 initiate and legacy member, he grew up in Matawan, New Jersey, and attends Kean University. At Kean, Clarence also works as an Audio Visual Technician, where he demonstrates technical skills, professionalism, and teamwork. He has raised funds for food shelters and breast cancer awareness, while also volunteering at multiple churches to strengthen his community. On campus, he works diligently to promote engagement, scholarship, and brotherhood. Known for his vision and accountability, Clarence leads with integrity and Strives to uphold the values of Omega Psi Phi in all aspects of his life.



Bro. Alvin W. Keller III is seasoned insurance professional with more than 20 years of experience in the industry. As a Senior Sales Agent and Training Supervisor, he has built a career centered on helping individuals and businesses navigate the complexities of insurance while empowering and developing the next generation of agents through training and mentorship. Bro. Keller is a proud graduate of Hampton University, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and of Bowie State University, where he obtained Master of Public Administration. He brings both academic insight and practical expertise to his field. Throughout his career, has been recognized for excellence in client service, leadership, and professional development. Bro. Keller was initiated in the Spring of 1995 through the Gamma Epsilon Chapter and is currently serving as Basileus for the Gamma Mu Nu in Middletown, Delaware.



Bro. Roosevelt Turner – initiated in Spring in 2003 through the Epsilon Pi Chapter, he is the current Basileus and served as the Vice Basileus, KRS and Chaplain for the chapter. Additionally, he continues to lend a helping hand by orchestrating the annual food and toy drive while serving as the Chairman, in which over 275 families were helped during the holidays. Bro Turner has aided in multiple community service activities throughout the city of Chester and is a shining light throughout the Chester Upland School district with community service, educational programming and supporting school personnel. Bro. Turner is a proud Father of three strong and beautiful educated Children and a proud Husband of Mrs. Yahaira Turner of 13yrs. The Turners also own and operate a successful landscaping business.

Welcome From The **Corridor 4 Representative**



To the Brothers Attending the 60th Annual James S. Avery Shirt Sleeve Conference and 2nd District Undergraduate Summit,

It is with great pride that I welcome you to Corridor IV—home to the great state of New Jersey and the distinguished chapters of the Mighty Second District. We are honored to serve as hosts for this year's Shirtsleeve Conference and Undergraduate Summit, held on the vibrant campus of Kean University. This occasion is both a celebration of our Brotherhood and a charge to continue the work necessary to advance Omega's mission.

On behalf of all the Brothers in Corridor IV, I extend my deepest thanks to the Second District Council for entrusting us with this honor. I also express sincere gratitude to our three phenomenal host chapters—Upsilon Phi, Iota Xi Nu, and Rho Zeta—whose tireless planning and coordination have created what I know will be a memorable and impactful conference experience. Their work truly exemplifies what it means to be OWT—Omega Working Tirelessly.

As you participate in this weekend's events, I encourage you to fully engage in every workshop, seminar, and moment of fellowship. Let this be a space where ideas are shared, bonds are strengthened, and leadership is refined. We are not just preparing for another Omega year—we are shaping the next era of greatness within our Fraternity.

So enjoy the atmosphere, soak in the knowledge, and leave inspired and energized for the work ahead. Let's continue to move our MIGHTY Second District forward by rolling up our sleeves, doing what's necessary and truly being OWT (Omega Working Tirelessly)!

Fraternally,

Bro. F. Tarkin Jones
Corridor IV Representative
The Mighty Second District
3-95-GE

Welcome From The Upsilon Phi Chapter Basileus



Beloved Brothers of Omega,

With praises for the Supreme Basileus of the Universe, our Lord and Savior, on behalf of the Brothers of Upsilon Phi Chapter, the Mother Pearl of New Jersey, in proud partnership with Rho Zeta Chapter —chartered more than 50 years ago by members of Upsilon Phi — and Iota Xi Nu Chapter, the newest chapter in the 4th Corridor, it is my honor to welcome you to the 60th Anniversary James Avery Shirtsleeve Conference, held here in New Jersey — the home of Bro. James S. Avery, Sr. himself. We extend gratitude to the leadership of Omega: Grand Basileus Bro. Ricky Lewis and the Supreme Council; 2nd District Representative Bro. Amir Shareef; 1st Vice District Representative Bro. Leon Smith; 2nd Vice District Representative Bro. Michael Robinson; along with the District Council and Committees whose tireless work makes gatherings like this possible.

Special thanks are also due to Conference Co-Marshals, Compton Coppin & Bro. KRS Thomas Conklin, and Bro. 1st Vice District Representative for their hard work and dedication. We further thank the brothers, vendors, and Kean University for their tremendous support in making this historic event possible.

For six decades, the Shirtsleeve Conference has been a sacred space where Brothers come together to innovate, sharpen leadership, and prepare strategies that strengthen our fraternity and uplift our communities. To celebrate this milestone in the very state of its namesake is both an honor and a reminder of the vision we are called to carry forward.

As your hosts, the Brothers of Upsilon Phi, Rho Zeta, and Iota Xi Nu warmly welcome all Brothers from the Mighty 2nd District to New Jersey. May this 60th James Avery Shirtsleeve Conference inspire us all to think bigger, lead stronger, and serve greater.

Fraternally,

Bro. Christopher Cills
1-SPR12-Upsilon Phi
Basileus
Upsilon Phi Chapter

Welcome From The **Upsilon Phi Chapter Co-Marshal**



Dear Brothers of the Second District,

It is with profound pride and fraternal joy that I extend a most heartfelt welcome to each of you as we gather for the 60th Annual James S. Avery Sr Shirtsleeve Conference. This historic occasion stands as a shining testament to six decades of visionary leadership, steadfast commitment, and the enduring spirit of brotherhood that defines the Second District of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated.

As we convene to engage in thoughtful dialogue, strategic planning, and meaningful fellowship, let us be ever mindful of the noble legacy of our esteemed Brother James S. Avery Sr. His dedication to cultivating leadership and fostering excellence continues to inspire our work and strengthen our collective resolve to uplift our communities and advance the noble ideals of Omega.

This year's Shirtsleeve Conference offers each of us an opportunity not only to reflect upon our rich history but also to chart a bold and purposeful course for the future of our beloved Fraternity. May our time together be marked by wisdom, collaboration, and an unwavering commitment to service.

On behalf of the leadership team and the Upsilon Phi Chapter, I thank you for your dedication, your sacrifice, and your steadfast love for the upholding of her cardinal principles. Brothers, welcome to this momentous 60th Annual James S. Avery Shirtsleeve Conference. May it be an occasion worthy of our distinguished legacy of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated.

Fraternally,

Bro. Compton Coppin
Co-Marshal
Vice Basileus
Upsilon Phi Chapter

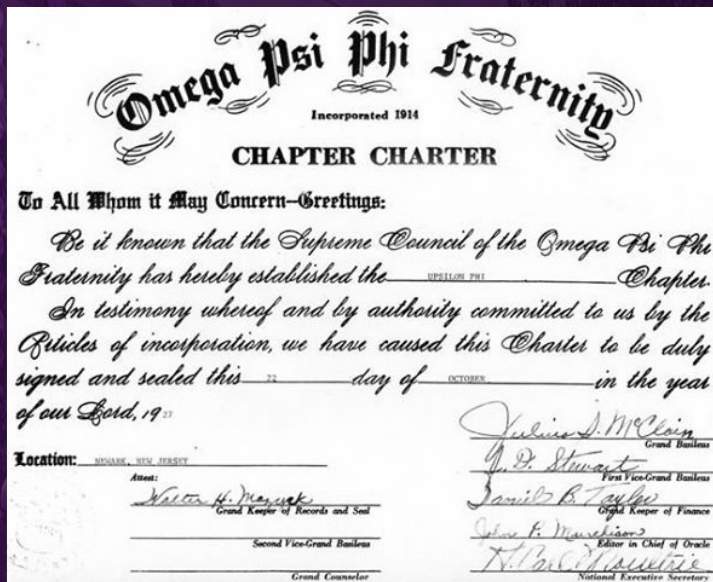
A Brief History Of Upsilon Phi Chapter

"The Mother Pearl of New Jersey"

On October 22, 1927, The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. granted a chapter charter to Upsilon Phi Chapter, Newark, New Jersey. Upsilon Phi became the first chapter in the State of New Jersey.

The Chapter's founding Brothers were:

Brother Herbert Humphrey, MD - Basileus
Brother Roger H. Yancey - Vice Basileus
Brother Hatcher A. Norris - Keeper of Records and Seals
Brother David G. Morris, MD - Keeper of Finance
Brother James O'Neal, MD - Chaplain
Brother Theodore Inge MD, - Editor to The Oracle and Other.



Upsilon Phi Chapter

"The Mother Pearl of New Jersey"



Leadership & Chapter Roster

Bro. Christopher Cills
Basileus

Bro. Omar T. Coppin
First Vice Basileus

Bro. James Mack
Keeper of Records and Seal

Bro. Eric Markes
Keeper of Finance

Bro. Ronald Tuff
Chaplain

Bro. Adrian Desroe
Bro. Anthony Salters
Bro. Antoine Thompson
Bro. Autrey Reynolds
Bro. Calvin Ledford, Jr.
Bro. Charles Watts
Bro. Christopher Cills
Bro. Christopher Snell
Bro. Clarence Boseman
Bro. Curtis Livingston, Jr.
Bro. Daniel Eatman

Bro. Eric Markes
Bro. Izaiha Pitts
Bro. Jamal McCullough
Bro. James Mack
Bro. Junius Carter III
Bro. Khaleel Castillo
Bro. Mansur Abdul-Nafe
Bro. Marques Cox
Bro. Nicholas McAllister
Bro. Olando Fisher
Bro. Omar Coppin

Bro. Rashaun Hill
Bro. Robert Jackson
Bro. Ronald Morse, Jr.
Bro. Roy Johnson
Bro. Samuel Manigault
Bro. Samuel Reed
Bro. Stephen Barnes
Bro. Telema Briggs
Bro. Trenier Dixon
Bro. William Oliver

Upsilon Phi Chapter

"The Mother Pearl of New Jersey"

Friendship



is Essential



to the Soul!!



A Brief History Of Rho Zeta Chapter



On November 6, 1973, the Rockin Rho Zeta Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was founded by a group of brothers, on the campus of Kean College [known today as Kean University]. Many of the founding brothers came from pledge lines out of the Northern New Jersey area, including the Upsilon Phi Graduate Chapter (Newark, NJ), which is the "Mother Pearl," or first Omega Psi Phi chapter founded in the State of New Jersey. The Rockin Rho Zeta founding brothers also came from pledge line Twelve Angry Men, pledge line Phantom Nine, and pledge line The Saints Thirteen Sinners.

Also on November 6, 1973, the Tau Zeta Chapter of the Fraternity was born out of the same group of North Jersey Omegas. The Tau Zeta Chapter's charter was approved on the campus of Rutgers, The State University - New Brunswick. Then in July 1975, the Kappa Eta Chapter at Seton Hall University, was additionally chartered by the founding brothers.

The nine (9) official founding members of the Rockin Rho Zeta Chapter were/are:

1. James Debose (12 angry men)
2. Kenneth Gillis (Phantom 9)
3. Jerry Polk (Phantom 9)
4. Julio Rosa (The Saints 13 Sinners)
5. Jerome Lee (The Saints 13 Sinners)
6. Otis Hall (The Saints 13 Sinners)
7. Michael Johnson (The Saints 13 Sinners)
8. Arnold Robinson (The Saints 13 Sinners)
9. Derrick Roberts (The Saints 13 Sinners)

These brothers gave us a total of nine men to form an undergraduate chapter at Kean College. When the charter application was being worked-on, the school was previously named Newark State Teachers College.

The first task once the charter was approved, was to gain recognition on campus by the administration of Kean College. This was to state the purpose of the chapter, and secondly by having well-rounded brothers academically and community orientated on campus.

A Brief History Of Rho Zeta Chapter (continued)

The original first officers of Rho Zeta Chapter were:

1. James Debose - Basileus
2. Jerome Lee - Vice Basileus
3. Otis Hall - Keeper of Records and Seal
4. 4. Julio Rosa - Keeper of Finance
5. Michael Johnson - Chaplain
6. Kenneth Gillis - Editor to the Oracle
7. Arnold Robinson - Keeper of Peace

There are several other brothers who should also be recognized for contributing to the success of the Rockin Rho Zeta chapter over the years. They are Brother Audley Bridges, who served as our Chapter /Faculty Advisor for more than 25 years at Kean University-Brother Bridges entered Omega Chapter several years ago. Brother Charley Williams, who crossed at Iota Gamma Chapter In Trenton, NJ, and served as the Chapter/Faculty Advisor for Rho Zeta Chapter for several years. Brother Wilmoth Roberts who provided very good counsel when needed, and Bro. Alexander Hall, who provided support when needed as a Faculty member at Kean University. And finally, the current Rockin Rho Zeta Chapter advisor is Bro. Will Burton-and honorable mention for Brother James Ellis who contributed to the outstanding nature of Rho Zeta Chapter by writing his own version of "The Sons of Blood and Thunder."

Special Fraternity Achievements:

1. Bro. William Comeaux - 26th Fourth District Representative (2003-2005)
2. Bro. Joshua Joseph - 2nd Vice District Representative for the 2nd District (2023 - Until)
3. Bro. Jerome Lee - Undergraduate Representative and Deputy Corridor Representative (Late 1970s)
4. Bro. Joseph Rouse - Deputy Corridor Representative (Late 1970s or early 1980s)
5. Bro. Michael Robinson 2nd Vice District Representative for the 2nd District (2024 - Current)

NOTE: Prior to 1970, there were no Omega Psi Phi undergraduate chapters in the State of New Jersey. The Iota Gamma Chapter, at Trenton State College [known today as The College of New Jersey], became the first to be chartered in 1970

Rho Zeta Chapter



Bro. Clarence Hayman V
Basileus

Bro. London Henry-Peters
First Vice Basileus

Bro. Nicholas McAllister
Keeper of Records and Seal

Bro. Alexander Kong
Keeper of Finance

Bro. Joshua Joseph
Chaplain

The Rockin Rho Zeta Chapter

Through the Years

Friendship



is Essential



to the Soul!!



Welcome From The **Iota Xi Nu Chapter** **Basileus**



Greetings Brothers and Guests,

It is my distinct honor to welcome you to the 60th Anniversary James S. Avery Sr. Shirtsleeve Conference and Undergraduate Summit. This milestone gathering is a testament to the enduring legacy of Brother James S. Avery Sr., whose vision six decades ago created a platform for leadership, fellowship, and uplift that continues to shape the Mighty Second District today.

Since becoming a member of our great fraternity in 1992 through Eta Pi Chapter, Montclair, NJ, I have been blessed to serve Omega in many capacities, including as Basileus of Eta Pi, where I had the privilege of hosting and supporting numerous events for the growth and enrichment of our brotherhood. Throughout my journey, Omega has given me countless opportunities to serve, to lead, and to contribute to the forward movement of our fraternity.

It is both humbling and inspiring to see how the Shirtsleeve Conference has grown to become a signature event that not only prepares our undergraduates for leadership, but also strengthens the bonds of friendship and brotherhood across the chapters. I am grateful to witness the energy and commitment of the planning team, and I commend the Co-Marshals, committee members, and the Second District Council for their tireless work in making this historic 60th anniversary a success.

On behalf of Iota Xi Nu Chapter, I extend a heartfelt welcome to every brother of the Mighty Second District and to our visiting brothers from across Omega. May this conference be a time of learning, renewal, and fellowship that honors our past and inspires our future.

Yours In Omega,

Bro. Curtis Humphrey, Jr.
Basileus, Iota Xi Nu Chapter

Welcome From The **Iota Xi Nu Chapter** **Co-Marshal**



Greetings Brothers and Guests,

It is with great honor and pride that I welcome you to the 60th Anniversary James S. Avery Sr. Shirtsleeve Conference and Undergraduate Summit. Serving as Co-Marshal for this historic occasion has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my fraternal journey.

Planning this milestone conference alongside Bro. Omar Coppin and the brothers of Upsilon Phi Chapter has truly been a privilege. Together, we worked to uphold and advance the legacy that Brother James S. Avery Sr. began six decades ago, a legacy rooted in brotherhood, service, and the unyielding pursuit of excellence.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Bro. Curtis Humphrey, the first Basileus of Iota Xi Nu Chapter, for his faith in my ability to steer this ship and for the wisdom he generously shared throughout the process. I also extend heartfelt thanks to Bro. Leon Smith, Second Vice District Representative, whose leadership and friendship became a true source of strength as we worked side by side to bring this vision to life.

To the Mighty Second District Council, I offer my sincere appreciation for your steadfast support and valuable contributions to this event. Your commitment has ensured that the Shirtsleeve Conference continues to be a space for growth, fellowship, and uplift.

On behalf of Iota Xi Nu Chapter, it is my pleasure to welcome the brothers of the Mighty Second District, as well as brothers traveling from beyond our borders. We trust that your time here will be both memorable and enlightening, and that the spirit of this conference will inspire you to carry forward the enduring principles of Omega.

Fraternally,

Bro. Thomas W. Conklin 5-B-96
Co-Marshal
Iota Xi Nu Chapter
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

A Brief History Of Iota Xi Nu Chapter

The year 2024 marked a pivotal moment in the history of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. with the official chartering of Iota Xi Nu Chapter in Union County, New Jersey. Chartered on September 24, 2024, the chapter formally celebrated its establishment during a public ceremony held on December 21, 2024, at the Stephen Sampson Senior Center in Elizabeth. The event brought together city officials, Pan-Hellenic leaders, and community dignitaries. The City of Elizabeth issued a proclamation in the chapter's honor, and the NAACP presented a Silver Lifetime Membership to Iota Xi Nu, recognizing its early dedication to service and civil rights. The ceremony also featured the official swearing-in of the chapter's 32 charter members, a moment that affirmed the beginning of a meaningful journey in Omega.

From the start, Iota Xi Nu moved with purpose and direction. In November, the chapter launched Helping Hands, which provided over 125 Thanksgiving meals to families across Union County. That act of service set the tone for a year defined by outreach, uplift, and excellence.

In December, the chapter hosted a Holiday Tablet Giveaway and supported Toys for Tots, distributing over \$3,500 in gifts and technology to local youth. In January, Iota Xi Nu solidified its commitment to civil rights by securing a Lifetime Membership with the NAACP.

March brought expanded community engagement. The chapter supported the Bridge Builder Foundation's Assault on Literacy initiative and took part in Read Across America. That same month, they hosted a Women's Hygiene Giveaway, ensuring essential products were distributed to those most in need.

Throughout the year, youth development remained a central focus. The Back to School Backpack Program helped students start the year prepared, and the chapter's sponsorship of a youth basketball team created a space for mentorship and positive engagement. The chapter also raised an estimated \$10,000 in scholarship funds, turning its commitment to education into direct support for the next generation of leaders.

While the public-facing work was visible and impactful, the chapter quietly built a foundation designed to last. Iota Xi Nu registered as a business in good standing with the State of New Jersey and was officially recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(7) nonprofit. Its website and social media platforms garnered over 15,000 views, signaling growing recognition both within and beyond the community.

Internally, the chapter created committees with defined strategic goals and introduced a Ways and Means Committee to ensure programs and fundraisers were financially sound. It secured three Certificates of Insurance with local restaurants to support event planning, ended the year with no outstanding debt, and met its \$5,000 goal through a successful Super Bowl Party fundraiser.

Regionally, Iota Xi Nu was represented at the 2nd District Conference and committed to co-hosting the 2025 James S. Avery Shirtsleeve Conference. These milestones positioned the chapter not only as a local presence, but as a growing force within the Mighty Second District.

In just one year, Iota Xi Nu has grown from a vision into a thriving, impactful, and sustainable chapter. The foundation has been laid. The legacy has begun. The future is ours to build.

Iota XI Nu Chapter



Leadership & Chapter Roster

Bro. Curtis Humphrey Jr. - Charter Basileus

Bro. Darren Joseph - Charter 1st Vice Basileus Bro. M. Sean Lovell - Charter 2nd Vice Basileus

Bro. Thomas Conklin - Charter Keeper of Records & Seal Bro. Necker Jean - Charter Keeper of Finance

Bro. Kevin Derricotte - Charter Keeper of Peace Bro. Bishop Collie Edwers - Charter Chaplain

Bro. Archange Antoine
Bro. Curtis Durham
Bro. Cory Durham
Bro. Christopher Kelly
Bro. Lamar Grady
Bro. Nigel Francis
Bro. Lamar Thompson
Bro. Keith Humphrey
Bro. Rishard Giles

Bro. Anthony Rose
Bro. Shawn McClain
Bro. Laquan Harris
Bro. Charles Simmons
Bro. Glasgow Bart
Bro. Corey Williams
Bro. Eric Edwers
Bro. Kirk Morton
Bro. Wallace Nixon

Bro. Timothy Thompson
Bro. James Walker
Bro. Michael McLean
Bro. John Montgomery
Bro. Randy Davenport
Bro. David Smith
Bro. Michael Watkins
Bro. John Cyrus
Bro. Derick Bossier

Iota XI Nu Chapter

Charter Ceremony



Brother James S. Avery Sr. (Omega Chapter) 28th Grand Basileus

March 24, 1923 - May 3, 2011

Bro. James Avery, Sr., born in Cranford, New Jersey, demonstrated early promise both in academics and athletics. At Cranford High School, he was a starting quarterback, a state hurdles champion, a National Honor Society member, and class president. His academic prowess earned him a Union County scholarship to Columbia University, where he balanced rigorous studies with varsity sports. When World War II broke out, Jim sought to serve his country, initially applying to the Marine Corps officer candidate program, only to be denied due to racial policies. Undeterred, he joined the Army Reserve and later completed his undergraduate and master's degrees in History at Columbia.

In 1949, Bro. Avery broke barriers as the first Black teacher in Cranford and perhaps Union County, teaching Social Studies at Cranford High School. He later became the head of the Social Studies program and a coach, influencing countless young minds. His personal life saw him marry Margaret Nunn in 1954, with whom he raised two children, facing challenges with steadfast resolve when Margaret moved out in 1972.

Brother Avery's career with Humble Oil, later Exxon, spanned over three decades. He was a driving force in broadening corporate and educational opportunities for Black communities during his tenure. As President and Chairman of the National Association of Market Developers and Vice Chairman of the United Negro College Fund, Jim championed initiatives that expanded financial support and mentorship for Black students. His influence extended to the Task Force on Youth Motivation, where he emphasized the rising opportunities in business and industry for young Black professionals.

Beyond his corporate achievements, Jim was deeply committed to service through Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, in which he was the very first initiate of the Omicron Chi Chapter in Plainfield, NJ. He quickly rose through the fraternity's ranks of leadership serving as Second District Representative, First Vice Grand Basileus, and later as the 28th Grand Basileus. His leadership was marked by a focus on drug prevention, community health, and educational upliftment through initiatives like Project Uplift and Project Aspiration. Brother Grand's life was one of trailblazing accomplishments, unwavering dedication to education and community empowerment, and a legacy that continues to inspire generations. Part of his enduring legacy was the creation of the Shirtsleeve Conference where the Brothers of the Mighty Second District come together every September to ponder the future of Omega!

"Omega is like a partnership, a relationship between men who share in a common enterprise, one that involves common challenges, common privileges and common responsibility. And all we accomplish depends upon the reality of that partnership with one another and with God."

~Brother James S. Avery, Sr. (28th Grand Basileus, Omega Chapter)



Brother Walter F. Wrenn III (Omega Chapter)
18th Second District Representative
August 2, 1940 – July 10, 2025

A Sturdy Tree from Omega's Forest has Fallen

Walter F. Wrenn III, a physician, mentor and advocate for health equity who cared for generations of Philadelphia families, died July 10th at the age of 84.

He was known to friends and colleagues as “Doc” and spent more than 40 years caring for multigenerational families, treating opioid addiction, and advocating for the rights of Black physicians.

Born Aug. 9, 1940, in Helena, Ark., Wrenn graduated from Central High School in Philadelphia. He received a bachelor’s degree from Cheyney University in 1969 while supporting a growing family and working full-time at the U.S. Post Office.

He graduated from Jefferson Medical College, now Sidney Kimmel Medical College, in 1974, completed his residency at Mercy Catholic Medical Center, and began a private practice in the neighborhood where he was raised.

Wrenn was active in professional and civic organizations, including the National Medical Association, where he served as a trustee for six years. His leadership roles included 18th Second District Representative of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. (1982–84), president of the Medical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania (1997–98), and president of the Keystone State Medical Society (2010–21).

As a 60-year member of Omega Psi Phi’s Mu Omega chapter, Wrenn devoted much of his time to mentorship and community uplift. He was a member of Vine Memorial Baptist Church, where he served in the music ministry and Sunday School leadership.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter F. Jr. and Mattie B. Wrenn, and children, Kathy and Aziza.

He is survived by his wife, Glenda L. Wrenn; children, Walter, Karen, Jonathan (Joy), Katira (Frederick), Glenda (Akil), and Gregory; and other family members and friends.

In Loving Memory



Mrs. Joan R. Avery
May 29, 1936 - August 24, 2025

Brother James S. Avery Sr. (Omega Chapter)
28th Grand Basileus
March 24, 1923 - May 3, 2011



The scripture reminds us that "as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." This biblical admonition tells us that we cannot think in terms of failure and then succeed; or in terms of weakness and then be strong; or in terms of fear and then be courageous; in terms of doubt then have faith. We must believe that with all we have to do, we can still find the time and energy to do the good that can advance us all."

James S. Avery, 37th District Conference, Texas, May 1985.



From the Archives

The Omega Psi Phi

ORACLE

ART AND LITERATURE NUMBER



JUNE

1928



Quarterly Report Of The Grand Basileus

To the Membership of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity:
Greetings:

The Grand Basileus herewith submits the first quarterly report for the year 1928. The general condition of the Fraternity over this period is very favorable. The co-operation of the chapters with the Supreme Council has been extremely encouraging. The outlook judged by the past four months, seems to point to a banner year for the organization. The administration wishes to extend sincere thanks to the brothers for this splendid co-operation.

The Grand Keeper of Records and Seals with the Grand Basileus visited 21 Chapters down the South Atlantic Coast carrying to them personal touch and message of administration of their Fraternity, and giving and receiving suggestions for improvements and National. We were able to adjust several conditions existing among chapters and to stir up interest generally which has manifested itself by expression and action as reported elsewhere in this report.

The relationship existing and the general conditions of these units were in most cases very good. The courtesies extended by the various brothers, for which we are very grateful added much to the success of the trip.

From this office we have sent Uniform Record Books to the following chapters, and they have received commendations from every source. We believe this a forward step in the reorganization and standardization of our methods and records:

Sigma Omega	Rho Phi	Mu Omega
Chi Phi	Gamma	Beta Psi
Beta Phi	Rho	Epsilon Omega
Sigma Phi	Nu Phi	Omicron Phi
Tau Phi	Mu Phi	Pi
Phi Phi	Zeta Psi	Beta
Nu Psi	Xi Phi	Theta
Zeta Psi	Alpha	Nu Omega
Psi Omega	Kappa Psi	Mu
Lambda Psi	Epsilon Phi	Alpha Omega
Mu Psi		Epsilon

I have sent out more than 300 letters for this period. They are productive of much good as proven by the results shown in several quarters. I am endeavoring to keep a close touch upon the pulse of every chapter and the policy of this administration.

The detached members are being handled from this office. The completion of the Roster has again reverted to me as "My Task."

The Vice Grand Basileus, Brother Bullock, has the direction of the Employment Service Committee. He has his work well planned and is ready to offer assistance to brothers seeking both summer and permanent employment. He is seeking co-operation of many big industrial employers, as well as offering the usual summer work.

District Representatives have been appointed to the number of 7. They are co-operating splendidly with the Supreme Council and keeping the program of the Fraternity before the chapters and getting action on the various items presented to them for chapter consideration.

The Grand Keeper of Records and Seals as you well know is very diligently carrying out his office routine and making such suggestions and improvements as he finds necessary for the development of the organization. His fertile brain has developed many new devices for carrying out the work for "Omega." He is planning to write a history of the Fraternity, which to my mind, is a very timely effort.

The Housing Committee under the direction of the Grand Keeper of Finance has been completed, the personnel of which will be published to the Fraternity at a very early date. The Grand Keeper of Finances and the Grand Keeper of Records and Seals have devised a combination receipt, identification and status card which is being mailed to every individual brother upon receipt of payment of dues. Another marker for this administration. This card will always provide a brother with first hand knowledge of his status with the Fraternity and will also identify him to brothers wherever he may go. When a new brother comes to your chapter ask him for his card and you will always know his status. This card is creating quite a bit of comment from brothers when they find that their chapter has not in all cases forwarded his fees to the National Organization.

The publication of the "Oracle" in New York and the expense attached thereto was not adequately foreseen by the Conclave in the compilation of its budget. The amount allotted to this item has proven too small by every estimate that the Editor in Chief has been able to secure in greater New York. It will undoubtedly cost the Fraternity approximately \$400.00 more to print the same standard of "Oracle" this year. A suggestion was made to have it printed elsewhere but the time and expense attached thereto and the difficulty of getting material properly taken care of by the printers would render this suggestion inadvisable. The Editor of the Oracle has devised a subscription card which will care for every individual subscriber and eliminate the many errors of the past and obviate the necessity of numerous letters complaining about the distribution.

The Grand Marshal was also visiting chapters in the middle west during his vacation. At this writing his report has not been received, but letters from several of the chapters on his route have spoken in glowing terms of the good that his visit has brought to their chapters. The Grand Marshal is already laying plans for a successful Convention. He will attempt reduced rates in conjunction with the other Conventions of the Greek Letter Societies meeting there at that time. He will



UPSILON PHI INITIATES STUDENT LEADERS AT RUTGERS

Three white and six colored brothers from the nucleus of a new chapter contemplated for Rutgers University at New Brunswick, N. J. Brought into the folds of Omega under the supervision of Upsilon Phi Chapter of Newark, N. J. They are from left to right (standing) William "Bucky" Hatchett, Joseph N. Seward, Antonio Doganiero, Arthur Seward, Robert N. Boyd III, and Harvey Grimsley. Seated are: William McCullough, Vincent Appruzzese (at keyboard) and Norman Ledgin.

First Inter-Racial Chapter In Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.—Nine Rutgers men today represent a milestone in Omega history by virtue of their initiation by Upsilon Phi Chapter on June 4 as an inter-racial arm of the fraternity.

The six Negroes and three whites, motivated by a desire to take the word "fraternity" literally, have banded together to bring to Rutgers some-

thing which has been fairly lacking at the State University of New Jersey for more than 100 years of fraternity life—the practice of brotherhood in its broadest sense.

The list of members comprises a healthy cross-section of students at the ivy-covered college, including some of the most prominent campus figures. Among the Negro and white

fraters who have affiliated with Omega are William "Bucky" Hatchett, first Negro elected as president of the senior class, and Norman Ledgin, editor-in-chief of *The Targum*, undergraduate newspaper.

The other white members of the fraternity, beside Ledgin, are Brothers Antonio Doganiero and Vincent

(Continued on Page 30)

SEPTEMBER, 1949

PAGE 3

Oracle (September 1949)

45

Interracial Chapter

(Continued from Page 3)

Appuzzese, while the remaining Negro members are Joseph Seward, sports editor of *The Targum*; Harvey Grimsley, starting left halfback of the Rutgers Scarlet; Arthur Seward, who ranked as the outstanding member of the freshman track and cross-country teams last year; William McCullough, sophomore in the Engineering College of Rutgers; and Robert N. Boyd, III, who plans to enter Temple University this Fall to do graduate work in dentistry, having completed his undergraduate studies.

Brothers Boyd and Grimsley were the men whose initial efforts last Spring brought 'Omega' to Rutgers. They served as liaison between Rutgers and Upsilon Phi Chapter, which will guide the new brothers in Omega procedure until an undergraduate chapter is officially established at New Brunswick, N. J.

Brothers Hatchett and Ledgin are members of the senior honorary society, Cap and Skull, while Hatchett, a three-sports man for Rutgers, is a member of the Student Council. "Bucky" is the outstanding member of the basketball team, has tied school records in track, and ranks as Coach Harvey J. Harman's top end on the football squad.

Standout Performer

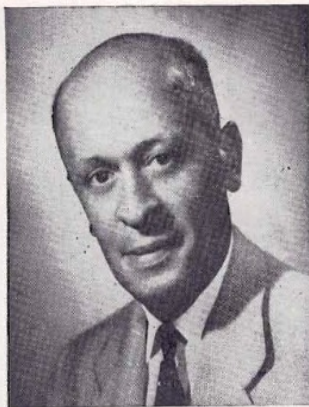
Brother Grimsley is another standout performer with the Scarlet eleven. He made his first bid for football fame when he scored both touchdowns against Harvard in 1946, his freshman year. Rutgers won 13-0 in their first meeting with Harvard on the gridiron.

Brother Seward was appointed sports editor of *The Targum* last Spring. He is a regular contributor to *The Anthologist*, student magazine, and is the Rutgers correspondent for *Standard News Service* and the *Afro-American Newspapers*.

With Brother Boyd leaving Rutgers, the remaining eight members have set a goal of 12 pledges by October, since 20 men are required by University regulations before a fraternity chapter can officially operate there.

Because there were only 33 Negroes at Rutgers last year, it was suggested by the office of the Dean of Men that the pledge clubs of Omega Psi Phi and Alpha Phi Alpha combine to form one fraternity. However, the resources of members is not limited by racial bounds since both groups have accepted white students.

Hoping to reach their quota of 20



DR. HUTCHINS F. INGE

Dr. Hutchins F. Inge of Newark, N. J. as Dean of Pledges of Upsilon Phi Chapter played an important role in the election and initiation of the nine student leaders at Rutgers University and two at Seton Hall College as a forerunner to the actual establishment of chapters at these institutions.

Dr. Inge conceived the idea and with the cooperation of several of his chapter members and the District Representative Millin T. Gibbs was able to make the contacts at the two institutions and launch Omega on its interracial program of non-discrimination.

Brother Inge, a prominent physician of Newark has been active with the local chapter since he began practice there some twenty years ago.

members by early Winter, the Omega brothers at Rutgers are looking to the day when they can secure a fraternity house on the campus. This will be their prime objective once they are given official status by the University.

Frat House Planned By Lambda Alpha

SCOTLANDVILLE, La.—Plans are underway for the erection of a "frat house", to be located not very far from the Southern University campus, to be used by the undergrad Omegas as living quarters while attending the university.

Another of the projects this year on the "Social Action Program" was the encouraging of Negro citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish and of other surrounding parishes to exercise their right to vote by going to the polls. This campaign was handled by each member through direct contacts.

MEMO: TO THE CHAPTER KRS

Do you still have on hand chapter dues which should have been mailed in February? If so, mail them today. Your chapter members will be happy to receive their cards prior to the Conclave. Why delay?

"Bucky" Hatchett

(Continued from Page 25)

ple know that he is in command of the situation once he enters the scene, whether the stage is set at the Rutgers Stadium, the gymnasium court, or the classroom.

Hailing from Verona, N. J., where he received All-State honors in the three sports mentioned, "Bucky" has brought to Rutgers a lesson which one cannot learn in the study halls. He has taught his friends and admirers that fame is not to be confused with biggishness, and that modest is the best accompaniment to esteem. Moreover, one must be guided by unshakable principles for which no sacrifice is too great.

Brother Hatchett is the number one end on the Scarlet football squad, having led the East in pass-receiving during the 1947 season. Plagued by a back injury last year, "Bucky" was benched for a few games, and his return to football duty was hailed as a Messianic recovery.

Three-Letter Man

In basketball, Brother Hatchett's two and a half seasons have netted him a total of 886 points, the highest aggregation of points ever to be garnered by a Rutgers man. Still facing another season of court play, "Bucky" holds another school record in the form of 40 points registered against Bucknell in 1948, highest one-man total for a single game.

Having tied Rutgers records in the high hurdles and high jump, Brother Hatchett's remaining season in track will be devoted to attempts at breaking both scholastic and intercollegiate marks, and he has pledged to gear all the reserves of his tremendous patience and will to doing just that next Spring.

Seton Hall Speedster

(Continued from Page 24)

mile and half-mile king for two successive years, besides being the mainstay of the cross country team. Phil first broke into prominence in the summer of 1947 when he scored an upset victory over Les MacMitchell in the mile event of the annual track meet between the athletes of the United States of America and Canada.

Thigpen is 22 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighs 145 pounds.

Something you like or don't like? Don't hold it to yourself. Tell it to the Omega world through "The Customers Always Write."

UPSILON PHI WILL HOST 2nd DISTRICT CONFERENCE

NEWARK, N. J.

THIRTY-TWO chapters of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Second District, from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, will be represented at the annual district conference to be held here Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 7, 8, and 9.

Brother Ermon K. Jones, District representative will preside over the plenary sessions. It is expected that Brothers Herbert E. Tucker, Grand Basileus; Walter L. "Crow" Riddick, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal; H. Albion Ferrell, Grand Chaplain; H. Carl Moultrie, national executive secretary and other national officers will attend.

Headquarters will be at the Robert Treat Hotel, 50 Park Place (opposite Military Park), with registration being conducted in the lobby from 3:00—7:00 p. m.

Pulchritude Promised

A "Meet Your Date" Party will be held from 7:00 P. M. — 9:00 P. M. at the hotel. Through the efforts of the Q'ettes of Upsilon Phi chapter, there will be feminine pulchritude to make the visit for those who are stag more hospitable.

The Omega Spring Formal will be held at the Terrace Ballroom, Mosque Building, 1020 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey, 10:00 P. M.—2:00 A. M. This affair is given as part of Upsilon Phi's annual activity and a colorful intermission affair has been planned.

The Saturday plenary sessions will be held at the Rutgers University Law School Auditorium, 53 Washington Street. Representatives of the State and City governments will address the conference.

While the brothers are meeting, the Q'ettes will entertain their wives and sweethearts at a luncheon at the Essex House, 1050 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey. The Q'ettes aroused great attention in North Jersey after giving their second annual card party and fashion show to a capacity crowd.

The revenue received is for a scholarship fund to be given to high school seniors in Essex County area.

There will be a Mardi Gras Party and Dance on Saturday evening for delegates and brothers and their guests. The Queen of Upsilon Phi chapter will reign over the affair which will be held at the East Orange Armory, 215 North Orator Parkway, East Orange, New Jersey from 9:30—2:00 A. M.

Sunday, June 9 memorial services and the election of the Second District officers will be held at a place yet to be determined.

Registration is \$5.00 for delegates and all visiting brothers. This will entitle the registrant and his guest to participate in all activities. The conference committee is

being directed by Brother Wendell P. Martin, District Marshall, assisted by brothers Othello Ashe, Montclair, talent hunt chairman; Donald Adams, Rutherford, director of publicity; Earl Ellis, East Orange, and O. T. McCain, Montclair, co-chairmen of entertainment; Clive Krygar, Jr., Orange, chairman of registration; and the Q'ettes entertainment chairlady, Mrs. Hutchins F. Inge of Newark.

The Q'ettes are led by the following officers: Mrs. Earl Ellis, president; Mrs. Calvin Smith, vice-president; Mrs. Frizzel Jones, recording secretary; Mrs. Hutchins F. Inge, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Silas Hogan, treasurer; and Mrs. John T. Bowles, financial secretary.



TO HELP ENTERTAINMENT FOR SECOND DISTRICT

The Q'ETTES of Upsilon Phi chapter, Newark, N. J., will help in the entertainment of the visiting wives and sweethearts and the brothers who will converge on that city, June 7-9 for the annual Second District meeting . . . They are from left to right, (front row) Mesdames: Othello Nelson, Stephen Burke, John T. Bowles, Earl Ellis, Robert Thomas, and Theodore Inge . . . Second row, seated, Curtis Parker, W. Dewey Tullis, and J. Bruce Massey . . . Those standing are Melvin Sanders, Maceo Ryan, Othello Ashe, Charles Chambers, David W. Sullivan, O. T. McCain, John Isler, Hutchins Inge, Wendell P. Martin, Harold Pattillo, Leonard Goode, and Clive Krygar, Jr.



UPSILON PHI ENTERTAINS 2nd DISTRICT OMEGAS

The officers of Upsilon Phi chapter, host at the Second District in Newark, N. J., June 7, 8, and 9, 1957 are shown at a recent installation of officers dinner meeting . . . They are from left to right, Brothers Earl Ellis, chaplain; Benjamin Jones, vice basileus; Ulysses E. Campbell, basileus; Curtis Parker, editor; W. Dewey Tullis, keeper of records and seal; Silas Hogan, keeper of finance and Roger M. Yancey, keeper of peace.

MAY, 1957

PAGE 15

Oracle (May 1957)

2025 James S. Avery Sr. Shirtsleeve Conference & Undergraduate Summit History Exhibition



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