



# The Source

The Official Newsletter for the 9<sup>th</sup> District



Volume 16, Issue 1

Spring 2007

## *Shreveport to Host the 2009 District Meeting*

Shreveport, Louisiana. Shreveport has been selected as the host city for the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ninth District Meeting. Propelled by the theme "Let the Good Times Roll" the Brothers of Rho Omega Chapter made a pitch to the District Council for the opportunity to host the 2009 Ninth District Meeting. The Brothers in partnership with the City of Shreveport, the Tourist Bureau and the staff of the Shreveport Convention Center put in support of their desire to

The Shreveport Convention 2006, offers a great venue Meeting. This facility can different ways to host the District Meeting. The connected to a new Hilton lodging options offered in

The nightlife includes the and be entertained in one of Riverboat Casinos. Options include Sam's Town, the El Dorado, Horseshoe, Boomtown, and the Isle of Capri. Shreveport also offers a great selection of restaurants and other fun activities for our meeting attendees.



together a strong proposal host the meeting.

Center, which opened in to host the District be configured a number of various events of the Convention Center is Hotel, which is one of the the area.

opportunity to wine, dine, the many dockside

The Brothers of Xi Omega (Tulsa) and Pi Omicron (Little Rock) are also commended for their submissions. They gave the District other excellent options to consider for this major event.

### **A Candid Conversation with Brother Todd S. Clemons, 20<sup>th</sup> Ninth District Representative**

Brother Todd Clemons was elected the 20<sup>th</sup> Ninth District Representative in Oklahoma City at the District Meeting in 2004. Under his leadership the Mighty Ninth has seen many changes and has faced many challenges. However, the Mighty Ninth continued to grow and prosper. This point was proven at the 2006 Conclave in Little Rock when chapters and members of the Ninth were recognized in a variety of categories, ranging from International Omega Man of the Year to Undergraduate Chapter of the Year.

The Editor recently spoke with Brother Clemons to get his comments on the growth and the state of the Ninth District. We touched on a number of topics, including accomplishment of goals, the involvement of Undergraduates, and Election 2007 just to name a few. What follows

is a candid conversation with Brother Todd S. Clemons, 20<sup>th</sup> Ninth District Representative.

What would you say was your biggest accomplishment during your tenure as District Representative?

During my three years as District Representative there are many accomplishments to note. However, first of all, the accomplishments are not my accomplishments, but the accomplishments of the good Brothers in the Ninth. (cont. page 2)





The Brothers and their efforts made our accomplishments possible. If I had to single out specific highlights I would first have to talk about the growth of our District Meetings. As we get ready to go to Houston we are looking at having over 1000 Brothers in attendance. This shows the Brothers in the Ninth are involved and want to participate in the growth of the District. Secondly, I would have to note our financial position. We have gone from operating in the red to having a surplus in funds, which means our District is operating in a very strong financial position. Thirdly, our Political Action Committee (PAC) chaired by my Line Brother, Roger Todd Watkins has served us admirably. Our Omega Days at the Capital have been truly awesome. Brothers from each of our four states meet at their respective state capitals whenever their legislatures convene. We are becoming more involved in the political process and through this involvement we can do more to assist in the welfare of our people.

There are always challenges that one must face, what do you feel was the biggest challenge? The biggest challenge that the District faced during my tenure was the “administrative leave situation.” We have discussed the specifics of this on many occasions, so I won’t go into that here. However, what I would say is this situation was rough on me personally and also rough on the District and us being able to go about the business of Omega. However, in true Omega fashion the Brothers of the Ninth stood tall and persevered and through the support of those Brothers and my family, I persevered. The end result being we were able to overcome

this distraction and continued to accomplish the goals of the Mighty Ninth. The fact that we were able to move forward was evident at the Conclave that was held in Little Rock. The Brothers in Arkansas stood tall and took the challenge of hosting the Conclave with minimal preparation time when other locations could not fulfill the obligation. Then at the Founders Banquet the Ninth took more than its share of awards, from International Omega Man of the Year, Undergraduate Chapter of the Year, and Graduate Social Action Chapter of the Year. Additionally, three highly qualified Brothers from the Ninth were elected to Grand offices. These accomplishments showed that the core of the Ninth District is strong.

Speaking of the Conclave and the awards that the Ninth District received; what do you think



contributed to our success? The Brothers of the Ninth District are committed to the principles of the Fraternity. Through hard work and dedication the Brothers strive to accomplish and exceed what is expected of them. Our Undergraduates represents the future of Omega and are the best Undergraduates in the Fraternity. They also strive to exceed the standards, as shown by Gamma Gamma Chapter receiving multiple Chapter of the Year Awards at the Conclave. These awards only touch on the tip of what is going on in the Ninth. The soul of the Ninth is in the Brothers of the Ninth.

What about Election 2007. There are a number of good Brothers running for District Offices, what advice would you give? (cont page 3).



Choose your leaders wisely. As I have said many times I would encourage the Brothers to understand that while we vote by blind ballot, do not vote blindly. Look at the Qualifications and Vision (Q&V) of each candidate. Does the candidate have the qualifications necessary to fill the role he is seeking? Does the candidate's vision for the office and the District align with your vision for the same? As we get closer to the election I would hope that we stay away from the deal making, the segregation and voting by states, and those other things that would restrict the free will of our Brothers. We have gone past the "wait your turn" and "sacrificial lamb" days and are giving all good Brothers the opportunity to step up and serve. The only way to find out if it is your turn is to toss your hat in the ring and let the Brotherhood decide. This is what a true Omega Political Process is about.



Is there anything left on your plate that you wanted to accomplishment? There are two things I feel are still left to be done, the revision of our bylaws and the Ninth District Foundation. The By-laws were last revised in 2001. It is possible that a review of the By-laws will not necessitate any changes; I still think that it is prudent that the by-laws be reviewed on a frequent basis. I have the utmost confidence in the next council that the review of our bylaws will be at the top of the list. We also did a lot of work on our foundation, with some more work to be done at the District Meeting. However, I would have wanted us to be further along in the process in the establishment of our foundation. As I serve on the Council as the Immediate Past District Representative I will remind the

Council of the work we need to do in these areas.



Do you have any closing remarks? As we talk about accomplishments and changes, I have to admit that our communication process has improved greatly. This starts with the work done on the District Website by Brother Van Newborn. Now we have a site that provides timely and accurate information. Any forms or publications that a Brother needs can be found on our web site. This is a major improvement over a few years ago when a Brother could not find the Ninth District's website. The next aspect of communication is our e-groups. Using the available technology we have tapped into a quick and efficient way to get information out to the Brotherhood. Not only is this used by District Officers, but any one else who needs to get the word out to the Brotherhood uses this site. This is a major improvement over snail mail and past methods of communication. Finally look at our district newsletter, The Source. This publication went out to the Brotherhood on a quarterly basis to tell the story of the Ninth. We were able to cover events from every state throughout the District. In this publication we were able to respond to requests from the Brotherhood to keep them informed on other activities. When you put all of these together we have moved communication to the next level and doing whatever is necessary to keep the Brotherhood informed.

I also cannot overstate how proud I am with the turn around in our financial posture. There were tough decisions made, budgets developed, and sacrifices made. (cont page 4)



However, in doing so we were able to change the balance in our bank accounts to the black. Also, we made changes in the execution of our District Meetings which have also resulted in financial gains for the District. The Brothers understood what was necessary and they support the council in its efforts to change our financial status. It is because of these efforts we are able to look at investing the surplus funds and use these gains to the betterment of the District.



It has truly been my honor and pleasure to serve as the 20<sup>th</sup> Ninth District Representative. I have served with dedicated and hard working fellow council members.

Additionally, it has been my pleasure to work with outstanding State Representatives, Membership Selection

Process Chairmen and Committee Chairmen. However, my greatest joy has been leading and serving you our 2,500 REAL QUES. May God continue to bless you, yours and our Great Fraternity.

***Ninth District Highlights***





## *Arkansas State Meeting*



## *Louisiana State Meeting*



Ninth District. February and March proved to be a busy time in the Ninth District. Brothers in the Ninth traveled from Little Rock to Port Arthur, and on to Oklahoma City, ending the travels in West Monroe. These meetings provided the opportunity to look at the business of Omega as it impacts the various states. Brothers attending these meetings were treated to the finest of Omega hospitality from the State Associations.

These meetings followed the same basic format the meetings, providing an opportunity for Brothers hear presentations from Grand Officers, District Officers and State Officers. Candidates for the various District Officers were also invited to make a presentation to the attendees. The meetings all ended with each State Association electing its officers for 2007-2008.



## *Oklahoma State Meeting*



## *Texas State Meeting*



These meetings gave Brothers the opportunity to meet and greet; meet new Brothers and greet those Brothers they hadn't seen in years. They also gave Brothers from all parts of the District and opportunity to see how their Chapters contributed to the growth of the State, the growth of the District and the growth of the Fraternity. While each meeting differ just a bit from the other, the overriding theme was the same in all of them "Promoting True Brotherhood."



## *Election 2007*

This issue of The Source focuses on Election 2007. This goal of this issue is to give the Brothers of the 9<sup>th</sup> District a closer look at the candidates who are vying for District Offices. In the following pages you will find a biographical sketch of each candidate. In addition, each candidate was asked three questions pertaining to their campaign. Each response was limited to 75 words or less. Candidates were informed of the requirement for responses when the initial questionnaire was sent to them.

The Brothers that we elect to lead this district will have a profound impact on the future of the Mighty Ninth District. It is the intent of this publication to provide you information that will assist you in making an informed decision.

The following Brothers have filed for District Officer position:

### **District Representative**

Brother Willie Hinchon

Brother Nelson Anthony

### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Representative**

Brother Shawn Brewer

Brother John Cooper

Brother Dyrren Davis

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Representative**

Brother Kevin Anthony

Brother Isiah Boyd

### **Keeper of Records and Seal**

Brother Robert Morgan

Brother Anthony Whitaker

### **Keeper of Finance**

Brother Russell Leday

Brother John D. Veal, Jr.

### **District Counselor**

Brother Carl Franklin

Brother Leon Johnson

### **District Director of Public Relations**

Brother Roger Watkins

### **District Chaplain**

Brother R. Ray Gatewood

These Brothers have all been working very hard to solicit your support in their quest to serve. They have attended State Meetings, Candidates Forums and Chapter Meetings stating their cases. The District will have an opportunity to hear from each of these Brothers during the Candidate's Forum at the District Meeting.



## District Representative

Brother Nelson C. Anthony

Brother Willie “Mercenary” Hinch



Intl. Social Action Committee Member  
Life Member 1904

1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Representative  
Life Member 2863

Brother Anthony is currently a member of the Rho Beta Chapter. He was initiated through the Theta Kappa (Lambda Alpha) Chapter in May 1975. Brother Anthony previously served as the 9<sup>th</sup> District First Vice District Representative. Brother Anthony was named Omega Man of the Year for his chapter in 1983 and 1986.

**Why are you seeking this office?** I am seeking the office of Ninth District Representative because I possess the leadership and visionary skills to lead the district to successful results. Since my initiation as a founding member of Theta Kappa Chapter, and as Vice Basileus, Basileus, State Representative, and First Vice D.R., I have learned how to be a good listener and strong leader. My fraternal and professional leadership experience make me uniquely qualified to serve as D.R.

**If elected, what will be your focus/goals during your tenure?** My primary goals will include strengthening the infrastructure of the District by making sure district officers, state reps, and committee chairmen are meeting all responsibilities and duties. As a leadership team, we will improve our efficiency of time and money to conduct district business. We will increase the value to brothers attending district meetings by providing informational presentations. Undergraduate development will be an important focus in helping with leadership skills and career planning.

**What specific education/experience do you have that has prepared you for this office?** As a KRS at Beta Sigma and Basileus at Rho Beta Beta, I contributed to both chapters being selected “Chapter of the Year”. Seven years as a State Representative under four District Representatives provided invaluable experience in preparing me for D.R. My degree in Marketing set the foundation for my present position as Regional Sales Manager for the IDEC Corporation. Please review my qualifications and goals in detail at [houstonomegas.com/Nelson4DR](http://houstonomegas.com/Nelson4DR).

Brother Hinch is currently a member of the Theta Alpha Chapter in Dallas, Texas. He was initiated through the Phi Beta Chapter, Jarvis Christian College in May 1972. Brother Hinch was recognized as the International Omega Man of the Year (2004) at the Little Rock Conclave in July 2006.

**Why are you seeking this office?** As an Omega man of thirty-five years, being of service to Omega has been and continues to be one of the primary commitments in my life. This commitment is superseded only by my need to give honor to God and my devotion to family. Retired since 2004, I have the freedom and time to allow my perspective and my focus, to be one of taking the “Mighty Ninth District” upward to achieve its full potential.

**If elected, what will be your focus/goals during your tenure?** My ultimate goal is working toward having the “Mighty Ninth District” identified as a powerhouse of Brothers committed to the cause of advancing the cardinal principles of Omega while being of service when and where ever possible. Among the means to aid in achieving this goal are (1) stimulating growth and membership (2) increasing participation in all mandatory international programs (3) determining solutions for barriers preventing participation by all chapters at fraternal functions.

**What specific education/experience do you have that has prepared you for this office?** Being a retired public school educator, coach and administrator (30 years), served as a Regional Director of OLMF (3 years), International Retention Chairman (4 years), LSSQ President (4 years), FVDR of the “Mighty Ninth District” (3 years), Interim DR (4 months) has prepared me well for the office of District Representative. I have attended numerous conferences, work shops and meetings which have provided me an opportunity to interact and exchange ideas with various groups.





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## First Vice District Representative

**Brother Shawn L. Brewer**

9th District Keeper of Finance - Life Member 4565



Brother Brewer is a member of Omicron Gamma Gamma Chapter in Arlington, Texas. He was initiated at Tuskegee University through the Lambda Epsilon Chapter in March 1992. Brother Brewer received his Chapter's Founders Award in 2003.

**Why are you seeking this office?** I love Omega! Since becoming a member, I have benefited in many ways because of the love of the Brotherhood. Therefore, it's my responsibility and duty to serve my Brothers and my community through every leadership position that I am given. I have been the 9th District KOF for 3 years and I have seen my work help make the District Better. Therefore, I'd like to continue to use my abilities as a catapult for continued improvement in each aspect of the District as the 1st Vice DR.

**If elected, what will be your focus/goals during your tenure?** My focus will be to make this district better. I will do that through the role of 1st Vice DR, which is the management of the district's committees and the

support of the DR. I'd like to implement within committees a more aggressive focus on community support. I will strive to improve scholarship funding through our scholarship committee, increase health awareness through our health committees (i.e. HIV & Health), and organize more committees that focuses on giving back.

**What specific education/experience do you have that has prepared you for this office?** The most beneficial aspect of my background that prepared me for the position of 1st Vice DR has been my three years as 9th District KOF. This has afforded me the opportunity to understand this district and its committees. I am an engineering manager (B.S., EE) responsible for multi-million dollar projects with 15 engineers that reports directly to me. I have served on almost every fraternal committee and chaired many of them. I have held several fraternal offices, including Basileus and many instances as Vice Basileus. I am also an algebra instructor, which has greatly enhanced my skills to lead through instruction.

**Brother John D. Cooper**

2008 District Marshal - Life Member 1681



Brother Cooper is a member of the Psi Alpha Chapter in San Antonio, Texas. He was initiated in December 1971 through the Beta Theta Chapter at Mississippi Valley State University. He is currently a Texas State Representative. He was honored as the Ninth District Omega Man of the Year in 1999.

**Why are you seeking this office?** To offer my God gifted talents and leadership abilities to the Ninth District Leadership Team and brotherhood so that we can elevate this regional organization to a higher level of excellence. My demonstrated leadership abilities and result-oriented track record is a testimony to my capability to help move this district forward. I am a doer and an achiever; and well groomed for the position of First Vice District Representative. I know that I want help.

**If elected, what will be your focus/goals during your tenure?** A return to the basic fundamentals of the fraternity; promotions of Christian brotherhood; taking care of omega's business in a business-like manner;

overhaul and streamline district committee operations and functions; enforcement of the fraternity's code of conduct; closer working relationships with the Ninth District Chain of Command; chapter accountability to our mandated programs; high standards and high expectations.

**What specific education/experience do you have that has prepared you for this office?** (1) 12.5 years as an educator: principal, dean of students, counselor, lead teacher, social studies teacher; (2) retired military officer (USAF)/over 20 years of distinguished service in variety of demanding administrative, executive and leadership positions/Administration Officer, Chief of Protocol, Commander, Joint Staff Action Control Officer, and Executive Assistant; (3) a stellar record of outstanding accomplishments, 2006 State Rep. of the Year; Omega Man of the Year Awards (5); Chapter of the Year Awards (5).



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### Brother Dyrren 'Pitt' Davis

Region 9 OLMF Board Director - Life Member 4137



Brother Davis is a member of the Rho Beta Beta Chapter. He was initiated in November 1978 through the Theta Sigma Chapter. He has served as the 9<sup>th</sup> District Reclamation Chairman. He was selected as his chapter's Omega Man of the Year in 2001.

**Why are you seeking this office?** Like me, many of you have expressed concerns over the many issues that have consumed the District over the past few years. I am disturbed by the current trend in the climate and culture that permeates our leadership and brotherhood. In my opinion there are five critical areas that the upcoming administration must address immediately in order for the 9<sup>th</sup> District to continue to move forward as we enthusiastically UPLIFT our communities.

**If elected, what will be your focus/goals during your tenure?** (1) Leadership – that characteristic influence that drives behavior in the pursuit of an organization's goals and objectives. (2) Vision – the forecastic, goal-oriented, faith-inspiring mission of an organization. (3) Teamwork – the driver of the vision and mission. (4) Accountability – the only measure by which leadership, vision, and teamwork are on track is through accountability. (5) Brotherhood – the most important of all the issues. It is the aspect

of Omega that separates us from other fraternities.

**What specific education/experience do you have that has prepared you for this office?** My fraternal and professional experience speaks for itself. Fraternally, I have served as Basileus, a former LSSQ President, 9<sup>th</sup> District Reclamation Chairman, a member of the National Health Initiative Committee, and most recently the Region 9 OLMF Board Director. Professionally, I have served and continue to serve in both management and consultant positions. It is the culminating of these varied experiences that have prepared me for the task of being your next 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Representative.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Representative

Brother Kevin Anthony	Brother Isiah Boyd
Gamma Gamma Chapter Grambling State University	Theta Delta Chapter Northwestern State University

*71<sup>st</sup> Ninth District Meeting  
San Antonio, Texas  
2008*



## Keeper of Records and Seal

**Brother Robert Morgan Jr.**



District Keeper of Records & Seal  
Life Member 1834

Brother Morgan is a member of the Rho Xi Chapter. He was initiated through the Phi Omicron Chapter in 1981. He received the Omega Man of the Year Award from his chapter in 2006.

**Why are you seeking this office?** Continue working in the position that I was elected to and to complete the goals that established; mainly to take the position to another level.

**If elected, what will be your focus/goals during your tenure?** To complete a manual for the chapter KRS that will reflect the many changes coming from the International Headquarters.

**What specific education/experience do you have that has prepared you for this office?** Currently sitting as the Ninth District KRS positions, Two graduate degrees and two undergraduate degrees. Extensive leadership, management, education and training background.



**Brother Anthony G. Whitaker**



North Texas MSP Chairman  
Life Member 4749

Brother Whitaker is a member of the Eta Lambda Lambda Chapter. He was initiated in Spring 89 through the Theta Theta Chapter. He has served as the Assistant Keeper of Peace for the 9<sup>th</sup> District. He was honored by his chapter as the Omega Man of the Year for 2002 and 2006.

**Why are you seeking this office?** Because I have the passion and desire to serve, I wanted to continue to give back to Omega Psi Phi by serving as the 9<sup>th</sup> district Keeper of Records and Seal. I have already served as KRS and Basileus of my local chapter, I feel by taking on a district office I can continue to serve, learn and grow as a Man of Omega.

**If elected, what will be your focus/goals during your tenure?** My immediate focus would be to guarantee the local chapters are fully trained and understand their roles and responsibilities. I would ensure on going efforts to manage and improve upon the communications between the District and Head Quarters. As well, my goals would include making certain that I am responsive to the needs of the district, while enhancing the districts record keeping by seeking new ways to improve upon policies and procedures.

**What specific education/experience do you have that has prepared you for this office?** As a law enforcement officer solid recording keeping is vital to my job. I must rely on my ability to maintain accurate and current records when building case files and recalling facts when it becomes necessary to testify in court. Also as an owner of a construction company, maintaining precise records when dealing with inspectors and subcontract workers is invaluable to my success.



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## Keeper of Finance

**Brother Russell LeDay**



North Louisiana MSP Chair  
Life Member 2341

Brother LeDay is a member of the Pi Tau Chapter. He was initiated in December 1981 through the Gamma Gamma Chapter. He previously served as the 9<sup>th</sup> District Keeper of Finance. He received the 9<sup>th</sup> District's Willie JC Critton MSP Chairman of the Year in 2006.

**Why are you seeking this office?** I am seeking the position of Keeper of Finance to continue improving the fiscal management of the district. Good fiscal management is essential to effective and efficient operation. My years of experience, education, dedication, commitment and Love for the fraternity make me realize that I should seek the position. It is not about me, but about what is best for the district and I bring uniqueness to the position that no one else can.

**If elected, what will be your focus/goals during your tenure?** My focus as the next Keeper of Finance for the Mighty Ninth District will be to continue my four point plan for fiscal management, which is Sound Budgeting; Investment Procedures; Safeguard our assets; and Online banking. I would prepare Budget vs Actual Reports on a quarterly basis to determine the need to make budget adjustments. This would allow management to make appropriate decision regarding the operation. I would advise the District Representative on developing an Investment Policy.

**What specific education/experience do you have that has prepared you for this office?** BS Degree-Business Administration (Accounting major); MBA (General Management); and Pursuing Doctorial Degree in Higher Education Administration. I have served as the 9<sup>th</sup> District Keeper of Finance; 18 years in Fiscal Management at Grambling State University; Bayou Classic Fiscal Officer; GUAF Account Manager; OPPI Fiscal Management Committee-1992; UOL Treasurer; VP-Texas College

**Brother John D. Veal, Jr.**



District Director of Public Relations  
Life Member 4647

Brother Veal is currently a member of the Psi Upsilon Chapter (Lawton, Oklahoma) and Iota Gamma Gamma Chapter (Leesville, Louisiana). He was initiated through the Psi Upsilon Chapter in December 2000. He serves as the Chairman COL Charles Young Leadership Award Committee. He was recognized at the 2006 Ninth District Meeting as the Omega Man of the Year.

**Why are you seeking this office?** The key reason that I am seeking this office is my desire to serve. It is my opinion that if you have certain skills, then you should use those skills to benefit the organization. I have served in the finance field for over 35 years and have gained skills that prepared me for to serve as Keeper of Finance, and it is my desire to use those skills to benefit the district.

**If elected, what will be your focus/goals during your tenure?** My focus will be threefold 1) Sustain the positive movement in financial reporting. Brother Brewer has worked hard to improve our reports and I will continue that positive direction. 2) Safeguard and properly account for all of the District's funds making sure that we follow proper procedures in safeguarding funds. 3) Seek additional ways to keep the Brotherhood informed, working toward a monthly report for the Brotherhood.

**What specific education/experience do you have that has prepared you for this office?** I have over 35 years in finance operations. My experience includes military finance, where I am currently the Finance Officer at Fort Polk. In addition, I have served in every position in the finance office. I have also worked as a Business Coordinator, where I assisted individuals with business development, implementing and improving their accounting programs. My experience is supported by military and civilian education which includes a MBA Degree and a BS Degree with emphasis in Accounting.



## District Counselor

**Brother Carl H. Franklin**  
District Counselor



Brother Franklin is a member of the Rho Omega Chapter. He was initiated in Fall 1978 through the Beta Sigma Chapter. He was selected as the Omega Man of the Year for the Rho Omega Chapter in 2005.

**Why are you seeking this office?** I have been an attorney for 21 years and have the experience to competently serve the Ninth District as District Counselor. Each Omega Man should use their talents to work for our fraternity. Omega will only then continue to be the Number One Fraternity In The World.

**If elected, what will be your focus/goals during your tenure?** Continue to advise and counsel the district officers on legal matters, including our bylaws and constitution. Promote our fraternity's policy of zero tolerance for hazing. Work with the Grand Counselor and other District Counselors on protecting Omega's intellectual property.

**What specific education/experience do you have that has prepared you for this office?** I received my BS in Business from Southern University and my JD from the Southern University Law School. I have worked as a Litigation Attorney for the FDIC and as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Shreveport; I have represented a number of business and community organizations. I am licensed to practice law in Louisiana, Texas and the District of Columbia. I am the Immediate Past Basileus of Rho Omega Chapter.

## Brother J. Leon Johnson



Brother Johnson is a member of the Pi Omicron Chapter in Little Rock, Arkansas. He was initiated in Spring 2006 through the Pi Omicron Chapter.

Brother Johnson is active in the Arkansas legal community having served as a Circuit Court Judge. He is also the first African-American State Attorney General for the State of Arkansas.

(note: Brother Johnson's responses to the Candidate's survey was not received back in time to make the deadline for this publication).

*72nd Ninth District Meeting  
Shreveport, Louisiana  
2009*



## Director of Public Relations



**Roger T. Watkins**

Chairman, Political Action Committee  
Life Member 3846

Brother Watkins is a member of the Omicron Gamma Gamma Chapter. He was initiated in April 1981 through the Gamma Delta Chapter. He received the District Representative Appreciation Award at the 2006 District Meeting.

**Why are you seeking this office?** I am seeking the office of Director of Public Relations: 1) From a personal perspective because I love Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and desire to serve. 2) In this office I have a unique opportunity for creating positive images of Omega and 'Black Men'. 3) In this role I will capture the spirit and ideals of Omega on paper through words and images that, prayerfully, will impact our communities, brotherhood, reclamation efforts, and posterity.

**If elected, what will be your focus/goals during your tenure?** From an internal perspective, brothers know that we do good things in our communities and we do a decent job of capturing and promoting the images and documenting our successes. These images and words foster a healthy competition amongst brothers and chapters to excel. My focus will be to continue that ideal and promote positive images in our communities. I hope to establish relationships with local media groups to promote the positive images of Omega.

**What specific education/experience do you have that has prepared you for this office?** My relevant experiences for this position are the many relationships that I have and am able to develop. My reputation for integrity and sincerity bring a credible face to our communities. Currently, I am pursuing my doctorate and as such, it has developed my writing, editing, and critical thinking skills. I have written several articles published in previous Oracles and The Source written for my committee.

## District Chaplain



**Brother R. Ray Gatewood**

Brother Gatewood is currently a member of the Omicron Pi Chapter. He was initiated in March 1973 through the Beta Delta Chapter. Brother Gatewood was recognized as the Citizen of the Year in November 1992.

**Why are you seeking this office?** As a Pastor of nine years and a minister for the last 21 years, I have learned that a holistic approach to spiritual wellness has proven to be more effective, and that a clear and established vision is absolutely necessary. Therefore, initiatives which address the wellness of the total man are always needed. I want to institute those initiatives in the 9<sup>th</sup> District in hopes that they will indeed become institutionalized.

**If elected, what will be your focus/goals during your tenure?** I will be the first to admit that my program of initiatives is aggressive. I want to see the District sponsor one or two spiritual wellness events in each state per year. With work and God's grace, this can be done. I will seek to host the following: 1) Prayer breakfast each year in each of the states; 2) A spiritual wellness seminar for the district; 3) Marriage Couple's Retreat

**What specific education/experience do you have that has prepared you for this office?** I am a Dean's List graduate of the University of the State of New York, B.S. in Liberal Arts with a Political Science Concentration; Magna Cum Laude graduate of Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity; current Doctoral Candidate Baylor University for the degree of Doctor of Ministry. My education credentials coupled with 21 years of ministry experience has provided skills necessary for success in both a leadership and operational environment.



## *Winter Council Meeting*





## Final Word from the Director of Public Relations



Greetings Brothers,

It has been an honor serving as the Director of Public Relations for the 9<sup>th</sup> District over these last two years. Throughout my tenure, my entire focus has been to tell the story of the Mighty Ninth. As we reflect back, I think we have improved in that area; however, I am the first to admit that there are many more stories to be told. Realizing this, while the bylaws require publication of a newsletter twice a year, we went to the once a quarter format to ensure that we put information out in a timely manner.

As I pass the computer on to my successor, I ask that you give him the same positive support that you gave me. I also ask that you help him by following a few suggestions:

- 1) When a Brother enters Omega Chapter, ensure that the DPR knows. Send him a news clipping, a program, anything that can be used to put together a fitting article as a tribute to the Brother. This is one time where the DPR will do the typing and composing. Just get him the information and he will take care of the rest.
- 2) When your chapter does something, submit an article to tell the story. Our chapters do a lot of great things; however, we don't take the time to send the information in so it can be publicized. Don't assume the article has been submitted, verify, verify, verify.
- 3) When an event occurs don't focus on a publication deadline. Submit the article as soon as you can after the event. That way your article won't get "missed" when the publication is being put together for printing.
- 4) Submit everything via digital format (i.e., email, CD, disc). This makes it easier to incorporate your article into the publication. Be mindful that there is no way the DPR can personally compose, type, and proof every article for every chapter.
- 5) Send in quality pictures reflecting the event. While we all like to see our face in print, let's make sure when our face is being seen, it shows us participating in the event we are reporting on.

I am sure my successor will publish additional guidelines; however, these will help in putting out a quality product every quarter. I wish him the best of luck and offer my assistance when needed. I would be remiss if I didn't thank a few people for their support.

First, thanks to Brother Todd Clemons for giving me the free hand in telling the story of the Ninth District. Secondly to the District Council, State Representatives and Committee Chairpersons for your contributions and suggestions on how to make the publication better. A special thanks to my wife for her many hours of proofing my work and helping me reduce the number of errors in the publication. Finally, thanks to the Brothers of the Mighty Ninth for doing the great things that we do and giving me something to write about.

Again, I want to thank you for your confidence, suggestions and support during my tenure. It has been very exciting and rewarding to be a part of recording the history of the Mighty Ninth.

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