

---

# Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

---

## THE 7<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT RECLAMATION RESOURCE KIT 2008



PRESENTED BY THE 7<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT RECLAMATION COMMITTEE

BRO. KEITH R. JACKSON  
7<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

BRO. WILLIAM T. JEMISON  
CHAIRMAN, 7<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT RECLAMATION COMMITTEE

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction by the 7 <sup>th</sup> District Reclamation Chairman	<i>Page 3</i>
<b><i>The Reclamation Handbook</i></b>	
• The Role of Reclamation Within the Chapter	<i>Page 5</i>
• The Role of Public Relations and Reclamation	<i>Page 6</i>
• Suggested Steps to Reclaim Inactive Brothers	<i>Page 7</i>
• Fraternization and the Reclamation Committee	<i>Page 8</i>
• Financial Reclamation	<i>Page 9</i>
• Reclamation and the Undergraduate	<i>Page 10</i>
<b><i>Sample Reclamation Letters</i></b>	
• Sample Reclamation Letter #1	<i>Page 12</i>
• Sample Reclamation Letter #2	<i>Page 13</i>
• Sample Reclamation Letter #3	<i>Page 14</i>

**BRO. WILLIAM T. JEMISON, CHAIRMAN  
7<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT RECLAMATION COMMITTEE**

P.O. BOX 714, JACKSON, MS 39205-0714

PH: 601- 291-2462 • FAX: 760-491-2462

E-Mail Address: wjemison@gmail.com



Brothers of the Mighty 7<sup>th</sup> District:

The following pages constitute *The 7<sup>th</sup> District Reclamation Resource Kit 2008*. This is an invaluable two-part reference that aims to provide strategies to chapters and brothers to reclaim inactive brothers.

Inside the resource kit you will find:

- The Reclamation Handbook – reclamation information and strategies that we can use in our roles in the Chapter, Public Relations, and in the community.
- Sample Reclamation Letters – Samples of letters that you can use as is or modify to fit individual chapter circumstances.

The 7<sup>th</sup> District Reclamation Resource Kit is a work in progress and will be updated periodically as input is received. Brothers are fully encouraged to comment and make contributions based on new and actual experiences to this on-going effort.

I thank all the brothers who helped in creating this document, particularly, Brother Michael Littlejohn who has given much to reclamation efforts throughout the Fraternity.

**LONG LIVE THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY!**

In Friendship,

*W. JEMISON*

Brother William Jemison  
Chairman, 7<sup>th</sup> District Reclamation Committee

# **THE RECLAMATION HANDBOOK**

## **THE ROLE OF RECLAMATION WITHIN THE CHAPTER**

The role of Reclamation within the chapter engages each financial brother of the chapter to identify brothers in a geographic area who are not currently affiliated with a local chapter. Be certain to inform identified Brothers of chapter sponsored community service projects, and invite those Brothers to attend chapter meetings on a regular basis.

In an effort to retain Brothers, the chapter should encourage reclaimed Brothers to serve on a committee in some capacity. By giving Brothers this responsibility, the Brother will feel that his input is appreciated.

### ***Strategies***

- Make the chapter visible by active participation in the community through meaningful community-based programs.
- Get input from all Brothers about chapter meetings and time.
- Develop a form to complete on all Brothers in your chapter who relocate because of a job, continuing education, etc. This information should be passed on to the chapter in that area.
- Devise a system to transfer information on Brothers from chapter to chapter. The information should include financial status.
- Try to identify reasons why Brothers pay dues, yet, do not attend meetings.
- Try to identify reasons why Brothers attend meetings and don't pay dues.
- Optimize leadership opportunities for Brothers.
- Develop a small committee to find out why Brothers are not attending Fraternity meetings.
- Invite more Brothers to participate in the Membership Selection Program (MSP).
- Conduct retreats or brainstorming sessions.
- Promote more networking among chapters.
- Listen to all ideas presented during meetings.
- Re-evaluate present chapter programs on a regular basis.
- Have the Vice Basileus oversee the activities of the chapter reclamation committee.

## **THE ROLE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND RECLAMATION**

To promote activities of the Fraternity, the chapter Reclamation Committee should take a greater role in involving non-financial Brothers to become active in chapter events.

### *Strategies*

- Send inactive members Christmas and Birthday cards.
- Make phone calls and/or visits during special occasions.
- Make every Brother feel a part of the chapter.
- Try to avoid cliques among Brothers.
- Call Brothers regularly and encourage open communication.
- Visit Brothers in their homes, churches, etc.
- Dialogue with Brothers.
- Don't interact with the same Brother all the time.
- Send minutes of meetings and information on all chapter activities to financial and non-financial Brothers not in attendance at meetings.
- Develop a chapter roster of all financial, non-financial, and undergraduate Brothers in your area.
- Line Brothers should contact non-financial Brothers and encourage them to become financial with a nearby chapter.

## **SUGGESTED STEPS TO RECLAIM INACTIVE BROTHERS**

The chapter should discuss and collectively decide different activities and strategies that may be used to reclaim inactive Brothers.

### *Strategies*

- Poll all members of your chapter to help identify inactive Brothers.
- List all names of inactive Brothers on a spreadsheet or database
- Invite all inactive members to your local meetings.
- Invite all inactive members to brotherhood cookouts/luncheons, etc...
- Implement the "Omega Round-Up" where Brothers compile a list of all inactive Brothers. Divide names among the chapter and make personal contact.
- Each chapter should have an active Reclamation Committee.
- Develop a personal history form on each inactive Brother in your chapter and area that includes the following: name, address, telephone(s), fax number(s), and occupation.
- Contact all inactive Brothers and inform them of chapter activities.
- Send information on all chapter activities to financial and non-financial Brothers not in attendance at meetings.
- Involve Brothers in more activities and utilize all talents.
- Encourage Brothers to participate in district and international fraternity affairs.
- Make sure that reclaimed Brothers serve on a committee in some capacity.
- Make all Brothers feel part of the chapter by involving them in all Fraternity programs. Provide more fellowship opportunities. Sing fraternity songs, etc...
- Coordinate and implement a chapter retreat.

## **FRATERNIZATION AND THE RECLAMATION COMMITTEE**

This section covers different activities that a chapter may engage in to blossom friendship within the chapters and among their families.

### *Strategies*

- Plan family-oriented activities that include wives, sweethearts, and children of Brothers.
- Increase social gatherings and fellowship activities.
- Develop more activities where Brothers must help prepare food (avoid catering).
- Attend church as a group several times a year.
- Increase social interaction among newly reclaimed Brothers through fundraisers such as fish fries, car washes, little-league teams, etc...
- Plan activities that the chapter can engage in to blossom friendship within the chapters and among families such as chapter visits, sports games, Quette dinner parties, children's night out, Omega shopping spree, road trips, concerts, or parties.
- Have Area picnics designed and held for reclaiming Brothers.
- If Quettes are active, invite the Brothers' wife to meet with them and become involved.
- Recognize Brothers with 10, 15, and 25 years or more of service within the chapter and Fraternity.

## **FINANCIAL RECLAMATION**

Below are some alternative methods for collecting dues to reinstate reclaimed Brothers and give them alternatives to meet their financial commitment when they encounter financial duress.

### *Strategies*

- Take a look at the amount of dues assessed each Brother.
- Be more sensitive to Brothers' financial situations.
- Devise alternative methods for collecting dues to reinstate reclaimed Brothers and give Brothers alternatives to meet their financial commitment when they encounter financial difficulties. (Payment plans to alleviate financial hardship).
- Eliminate chapter dues for one year for reclaimed Brothers.
- For recent college graduates, institute a staggered dues scale:
  1. Charge them no chapter dues the first year
  2.  $\frac{1}{3}$ -chapter dues the second year
  3. Full chapter dues the third year

## **RECLAMATION AND THE UNDERGRADUATE**

Reclamation begins with younger Brothers and their attitudes toward the Fraternity and graduate chapters. By strengthening the bond between graduate and undergraduate chapters, we may decrease the overwhelming task that we face in getting Brothers to remain financial.

Undergraduate Brothers should be included in the operations of graduate chapters whenever possible. These Brothers should be identified and encouraged to attend local graduate meetings on a regular basis.

Graduate and undergraduate chapters should also be encouraged to become more active in each other's service projects.

### *Strategies*

- Include undergraduates in all graduate chapter activities.
- Provide assistance to undergraduate Brothers when needed.
- Include undergraduate information on chapter rosters.
- Invite the Basileus of the undergraduate chapter to attend graduate chapter executive council meetings.
- Develop strategies for transition from undergraduate to graduate chapter.
- Strengthen the bond between graduate and undergraduate chapters.
- Seek ways to involve graduate and undergraduate chapters in each other's service projects.
- During Founders Day/Achievement Week ceremonies, recognize those undergraduate(s) that are performing well academically.
- Encourage scholarship and police the academic progress of Brothers before losing them to academic probation or removal.

# **SAMPLE RECLAMATION LETTERS**

## **SAMPLE RECLAMATION LETTER # 1**

*Sample letter to a Brother that the Reclamation Committee may use or edit as appropriate*

Dear Brother \_\_\_\_\_,

I greet you in the name of the Supreme Basileus of the Universe. I hope this letter finds you and your family in the best of health and enjoying all of life's riches. I am sending you this letter on behalf of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, the Reclamation Committee, and myself.

Brother it's time to come home. The Brotherhood needs you to come back home to the place you belong, The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. We deeply miss you Brother, your smile, your thoughts, and your leadership. We welcome you back with open arms, no questions asked. I would like to personally apologize to you for whatever we did (The Fraternity, a Brother) to run you away or cause you to become inactive. Let's let bygones be bygones and let's start getting down to the business of being Ques again.

I know there are many reasons why Brothers become inactive, i.e., religion, family, job, and just flat out hate the bruh's to name a few. The good news is, you can still keep all your priorities and still be an active Brother. There is no one Brother in this Chapter that can do to it all. We realize you may not be able to make every frat meeting, but you can make some throughout the year.

We have 15 committees in this chapter, covering everything from Bible Study to the outset boat ride and everything in between. We have a challenge, a committee, and/or a program for every Brother to add his own expertise, leadership, and/or teamwork. To that end, don't procrastinate another day: get off the bench and call the brother who sent you this letter and say to him, "bruh, I got my helmet and I'm ready to get back in the game."

Finally, Brother I know you are "Spiritually the man," you are the greatest Husband/Father in the world, you are the "best that ever did it" at your chosen craft or profession, but there is still one important calling missing in your life. The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the fraternity you chose, the brotherhood you wanted so badly to be a part of once upon a time. Well Brother, the good news, we still love you and are extending our open arms asking you to come back home. We have saved a place at Omega's table, just for you; all you have to do is come back and claim your well-earned seat.

Please don't let money be the only reason stopping you from reconnecting with Omega! If you truly want to be active again and do not have the financial means, please get with me personally and I will get with the Executive Council. We will work something out to get you back in the fold.

Hope to see you real soon Brother, until then. Live nobly as all real men do.

Yours in Omega!

## SAMPLE RECLAMATION LETTER #2

*Sample letter to a Brother that the Reclamation Committee may use or edit as appropriate*

Dear Brother \_\_\_\_\_:

\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter had another outstanding year. As examples, but limited to the below, are the following:

- The *Economic Summit* prepares young people for life challenges learning everything from balancing budgets to acquiring real estate.
- *Education* – Supported the Swansfield Elementary School, and purchased books and supplies for at-risk schools.
- *Omega Gentlemen's Club* – Operated the mentoring group for high school males where high academic and social achievements are mandated.
- *Talent Hunt* – Nationally Mandated Program that provides exposure and financial assistance to young people in the performing arts.
- *College Endowment Fund* – A contribution was made by the chapter to this Nationally Mandated Program.

***Your dues of \$\_\_\_\_\_ will support activities on all levels*** (add \$\_\_\_\_\_ if received after December \_\_\_\_). Your dues payment will allow us to continue to present our best, and improve upon what we already provide to the community and to our membership.

***Brother \_\_\_\_\_, please send your dues in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.*** Your Fraternity and \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter need your active and financial support.

Thank you in advance for your timely consideration of this important matter.

Fraternally,

Brother \_\_\_\_\_

**SAMPLE RECLAMATION LETTER #3**

*Sample letter to a Brother that the Reclamation Committee may use or edit as appropriate*

Greetings from \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter!

On behalf of 7<sup>th</sup> District Representative, Brother Keith R. Jackson, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks for renewing your commitment to our beloved Fraternity.

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity continues its time-honored tradition amongst members to promote the Cardinal Principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. The fraternal oath we took commits us to a path to further brotherly love and fraternal spirit. In the profound words of our founding Fathers, we are an organization that occupies a progressive, helpful, and constructive place in both civic and political life.

Brother \_\_\_\_\_, we urge you to participate fully in all \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter activities, and bring your Omega fellowship, spirit and wisdom for the betterment of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and the community in which we reside.

Fraternally,

Brother \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter