

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
SECOND DISTRICT



78TH SECOND DISTRICT CONFERENCE FOUNDERS' BANQUET



Saturday, May 2, 2026



A BRIEF HISTORY OF OMEGA PSI PHI

On Friday evening, November 17, 1911, three Howard University undergraduate students, with the assistance of their faculty adviser, gave birth to the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. This event occurred in the office of the faculty adviser and Biology professor Ernest E. Just, in the Science Hall, which is now known as Thirkield Hall. The three liberal arts students were Edgar A. Love, Oscar J. Cooper, and Frank Coleman. From the initials of the Greek phrase meaning "friendship is essential to the soul," the name "Omega Psi Phi" was derived. The phrase was selected as the motto. Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift were adopted as the Cardinal Principles. A decision was made regarding the design for the Fraternity pin and emblem, and thus ended the first meeting of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.



Omega Psi Phi Founders' Monument
Howard University

Each of the founders had distinguished careers in their chosen fields: Edgar A. Love became a bishop of the United Methodist Church; Oscar J. Cooper was a prominent physician who practiced in Philadelphia for more than 50 years; Frank Coleman was chairman of the Department of Physics at Howard University for many years; and, Ernest E. Just was a world-renowned biologist. Omega Psi Phi is the first Black national fraternal organization to be founded at an Historically Black College or University (HBCU).

Since 1945, Omega Psi Phi has undertaken a National Social Action Program to meet African Americans' needs in health, housing, civil rights, and education. The Fraternity has been a patron of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) since 1955, provides an annual gift of at least \$50,000 to the UNCF, and is a National PanHellenic Council (NPHC) member.

Today, Omega Psi Phi has more than 750 active chapters across the United States and globally in the Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, China, the Dominican Republic, England, Germany, Ghana, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Liberia, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. There are many notable Omega Men recognized as leaders in the arts, sciences, academics, athletics, business, civil rights, education, and in government at the local, national, and international levels. Some of these men include former Executive Directors of the NAACP, Roy Wilkins and Benjamin Hooks, former President of the National Urban League, Vernon Jordan, and President & CEO of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, Jesse Jackson. Also, two former governors, William H. Hastie (U.S. Virgin Islands) and L. Douglas Wilder (Virginia), and numerous presidents of HBCUs grace the Omega Psi Phi member rolls.

THE HISTORY OF ACHIEVEMENT WEEK

Achievement Week had its origin in 1920 during the ninth Grand Conclave in Nashville, Tennessee. At the urging of Brother Carter G. Woodson, the Fraternity launched "Negro History and Literature Week" in an effort to publicize the growing body of scholarship on African-American history. Encouraged by public interest, the event was renamed "Negro Achievement Week" in 1925 and given an expanded national presence in 1926 by Woodson's Association for the Study of Negro Life as "Negro History Week". Expanded to the full month of February in 1976, this event continues today as "Black History Month".



MISSION & PURPOSE

Originally designed to promote the study of Negro life and history, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., annually observes Achievement Week in November to seek out and give due recognition to individuals at the local and international levels who have made a noteworthy contribution toward improving the quality of life for Black Americans. The Achievement Week observance also includes the High School Essay Contest that typically closes in October to allow essay winners to also be recognized during the Achievement Week observance program. The essay contest is open to all college-bound high school seniors. College scholarships may be offered at the local chapter level, and are offered at the district and the international levels for winning submissions in response to an annual theme/topic provided by the Fraternity. The essay contest phase and the awards recognition are key elements of the annual International Achievement Week Observance.

THE 2026 FOUNDERS' STAND-INS



FOUNDER BP. EDGAR A. LOVE MANHOOD

"Da GBN"

Bro. LaVaughn Kelley | MP '04
Bro. Jontavius Singleton | MP '05
Bro. Desmond "Skip" Victor | MP '99
Bro. Jeffrey "Jeff" Walker | M '99



FOUNDER PROF. FRANK COLEMAN SCHOLARSHIP

"Prayer Warriors"

Bro. Michael "Mike" Elby | YΦ '72
Bro. Bernard Fisher | B '70
Bro. John "Wes" Gumby | BΓ '68
Bro. Darrel Kidd | BAA '83



FOUNDER DR. OSCAR J. COOPER PERSEVERANCE

"Legends Never Die"

Bro. John "Ted" Childs | ΘΨ '64
Bro. Gordon Everett, Sr. | ME '75
Bro. Steven A. Walls, Sr. | ΓΠ '90
Bro. DR Walter Wrenn III | M '59



FOUNDER DR. ERNEST E. JUST UPLIFT

"Icons"

Bro. DR James E. Hicks, Jr. | ΣΘ '73
Bro. DR Noman "Norm" Johnson, Sr. | OΨ '55
Bro. Timothy "Tim" McIntosh, Sr. | TΨ '59
Bro. Jake Zweig | IMM '98

FOUNDERS' BANQUET DINNER PROGRAM

Introduction of the Dais	Bro. Troy Manigault Achievement Week Chairman
Invocation & Dinner Blessing	Bro. Anjuan Collins Second District Chaplain
Welcome & Occasion	Bro. Troy Manigault
Fraternity History	Bro. Donnell Boykin Mu Nu Chapter Basileus
Founders' Stand-Ins	Bro. Amir Shareef 39 th Second District Representative
Reclamation Awards	Bro. Damaas Stephans Reclamation Chairman
High School Essay Awards	Bro. Omari Fennell Achievement Week Sub-chairman

Dinner

Social Action Awards	Bro. Dwayne White Social Action Chairman <i>Emeritus</i>
Achievement Week Awards	Bro. Troy Manigault
Special Awards	Bro. Amir Shareef
Installation of Officers	Bro. Dr. Andrew Ray 39 th Grand Basileus
Inaugural Address	40 th Second District Representative
Closing Remarks	Bro. Amir Shareef
Benediction	Bro. Anjuan Collins

“Omega Dear”

HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY WINNERS



1ST PLACE

IBUKUNOLUWA ADEDO

New Town H.S., Owings Mills, MD

sponsored by

Theta Mu Mu Chapter



2ND PLACE

CASSIDY JOHNSON

Caesar Rodney H.S., Dover, DE

sponsored by

Psi Iota Chapter



3RD PLACE

OMAREE PORTER

Hatboro Horsham H.S., Philadelphia, PA

sponsored by

Mu Omega Chapter

HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST FIRST PLACE

“In a World Powered by Artificial Intelligence, What Does it Mean to Lead with Integrity and Purpose?”

by

Ibukunoluwa Adedo

In a world powered by Artificial Intelligence, leading with integrity and purpose requires moral courage, empathy, and alignment between values and actions. In today's new age, we currently face new challenges: the balance between innovation and integrity. Technology has transformed how we think, learn, and connect with others. Artificial Intelligence can do a plethora of things, such as writing essays, developing diagnoses for diseases, and tailoring treatment plans. While AI can process data faster than the human mind, it cannot replace the moral compass that guides leadership. To lead with integrity and purpose today means striving for greatness through authenticity that aligns with one's values, actions, and goals in a world that often rewards convenience over character.

Integrity is the foundation of purposeful leadership. It is choosing honesty when dishonesty is easier, responsibility when shortcuts are tempting, and humility when power seems within reach. In an age where AI can produce instant solutions to most things, integrity is when we remain accountable for our choices. Leading with integrity means using technology as a tool for good, not a replacement for our creativity or ethical thinking.

Purpose is the direction integrity gives life to. Purpose is the “why” behind every decision and action. Leading with purpose requires a clear understanding of one's values and commitment to goals that uplift others. In the digital world, algorithms predict our preferences and trends, but purpose is what reminds us to think independently and to act not just because it is popular, but because it is right. A purposeful leader sees technology not as a competition, but as a partner in creating meaningful progress.

When striving for success in an AI-powered world, it begins with a clear mindset that believes human potential is not limited by the tools we create. Though AI can do most things, it cannot dream, empathize, or love the way humans do. With our ability to connect genuinely, feel deeply, and act morally, we are able to inspire others with hard work and growth, even when AI offers an easier path. To lead with purpose and integrity also means guiding others with empathy and accountability. It means encouraging people to think critically about the technology they use and the influence it holds. A leader today must be knowledgeable but also ethical, ensuring that AI serves humanity, not the other way around. As technology advances, leadership must advance with it, grounded not in fear of change but in our shared values.

An example of when I have had to lead with purpose and integrity in a world powered by Artificial Intelligence is a time when I was faced with my creativity and convenience. As President of a student club, I was planning an event that required creating a digital promotion for our cause. At the moment, I could have used an AI generator to design the posters and write the captions, but something about that felt wrong to me. I wanted our message to reflect our creativity, our voices, and our passion for what we stood for. So, I spent hours drafting ideas, requesting feedback, and designing from scratch. It took more time, but it felt honest. It felt truthful. When the event came, people connected to our work because they saw us in it, not just a perfect design. With the use of AI, I would've been able to achieve perfect grammar and intellectual designs needed to present this adequately. Yet, with this, my intention behind the cause would've been skewed. Acknowledging AI's benefits while preserving the value of our own effort demands that we pursue goals that contribute to humanity's growth, not just our personal success. At the end, that experience left me with a sense of solace, knowing that I sacrificed time for the betterment of a cause. This reminded me that integrity sometimes means choosing authenticity even when no one would know the difference.

With that, leading with integrity and purpose in a world powered by Artificial Intelligence allows us to remember the greatest power we possess is not artificial, but authentic.

Our integrity shapes our actions, and our purpose gives them direction. Altogether, they remind us that even in a world run by algorithms, the heart of leadership will always belong to those who choose to lead with character, conviction, and courage.

SECOND DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENT WEEK COMMITTEE



TROY MANIGAULT
Chairman



BRO. MARK EDWARDS
Immediate Past Chairman



BRO. KEIR PEMBERTON
Former Chairman



BRO. JOHN BERKLEY
Senior Advisor



BRO. OMARI FENNEL
H.S. Essay Contest Sub-chairman



BRO. MILTON DARBY
Evaluation Team Leader



BRO. JOHARI HEMPHILL
Evaluation Team Leader



BRO. ANTHONY JOYNER
Int'l H.S. Essay Contest Panelist



BRO. ANDRE BOGGERTY



BRO. SEAN O'REILLY