**Record**

I sincerely convinced that my educational background and professional experiences uniquely qualify me as an exceptional candidate for the position of 7th District Keeper of Records and Seal. My education in finance and my experiences in higher education administration as a college Bursar provide the necessary skill set to lead the charge in enhancing our record keeping protocols that are currently in place for the 7th District of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

For more than 20 years I’ve had professional opportunities to develop and administer effective change, which have included but are not limited to notable chapter operating procedures throughout the state of Mississippi, implementation of strategic initiatives and managed committee chairman to achieve the State of Mississippi organizational goals and objectives. Currently, my responsibilities as a college bursar offer additional significant qualifications for the position of Keeper of Records and Seal to the Mighty 7th District.

Additionally, my vast knowledge of fraternity policy and procedure, excellent communication skills, as well as my ability to accurately report organizational proceedings in a timely and effective manner, have prepared me to serve in such a demanding office of the 7th District Keeper of Records and Seal, which is often referred to as the “**Backbone**” of the fraternity.

## Reasons to Vote for Brother Reed

* 17 consecutive, active years of Omega leadership at the chapter, state, and district levels
* Instrumental in securing the State of MS Car Tag
* Dedicated to preserving Omega decorum and protocols
* A friend to Omega, a Brother’s Brother
* Accessible to the Brotherhood
* Proven leader, academia, community and Omega
* Forward thinking visionary
* Excels at relationship building to drive successful outcomes
* Charismatic and transparent
* Spiritually grounded

**Background**

**A Legacy of Leadership**

Brother James M. Reed IV (2-98-Xi Kapa Kappa), initiated on March 2nd, 1998. Over 17 consecutive, active years, I’ve held fraternal leadership positions from the chapter level to the district level. As a chapter Basileus, First Vice State Representative for Mississippi, and currently Seventh District Stop the Violence Prevention chairman, my leadership skills have proven beneficial to the overall mission of the fraternity. As an executive officer for the State of MS Organization, I implemented effective and efficient change for the betterment of our beloved organization. During my tenure as a Committee Chairman and International Committee member for the Stop the Violence Prevention, I have added valuable insight on effective approaches for dealing with internal and external violence that plagues our fraternity and our community at large.

My successful leadership experiences within the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., as well as with other organizations, serve as evidence of my ability to make a significant impact on the way our records are kept and our seal is protected. For more than 17 years I’ve had leadership experience on the chapter, state, and district levels of the fraternity. I’ve also had leadership experience with other such organizations as the Baptist Laymen Ministry and Life Savers Mentorship Program.

## Prior Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Positions and Recognitions

* 7th District Stop the Violence Prevention Chairman- Current
* State of MS Organization- First Vice State Representative Five Term (Un-opposed)
* State of MS Organization Keeper of Records & Seals, Seven Term (Un-opposed)
* State of MS Organization Certifications & Credentials Chairman, Seven Term
* State of MS Organization Scholarship Chairman
* State of MS Organization Omega Car Tag Committee member
* State of MS Organization State Marshal
* Xi Kappa Kappa Chapter #893- Basileus (Four term)
* Xi Kappa Kappa Chapter #893- Vice Basileus (One term)
* Xi Kappa Kappa Chapter #893- Keeper of Records & Seals (Two term)
* Xi Kappa Kappa Chapter #893- Keeper of Finance
* Xi Kappa Kappa Chapter #893- MSP Chairman
* Xi Kappa Kappa Chapter #893- Achievement Week Chairman
* Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter- Retention Chairman
* Xi Kappa Kappa Chapter #893- Omega Man of the Year (3)
* Xi Kappa Kappa Chapter #893- Service Award Recipient
* State of MS Organization- Outstanding Committee Chairman

***Noteworthy Accomplishments***

* Developed the 7th District Violence Protocol Presentation
* Designed and developed the current State of MS Organization Committee Chairman reporting format.
* Instrumental in creating the concept of the Statewide (MS) Reclamation and Retention Annual Brotherhood Picnic/Retreat.
* Increased Chapter and Committee reporting by 90% during tenure as the First Vice State Representative (MS).
* Created the format for the State of MS Organization Scholarship Committee.
* Co-Author/Presenter of the 7th District Chapter Operations and Best Practices Workshop for the 75th 7th District meeting, held in Jackson, MS.
* Implemented the 50 Year Brotherhood Service Award Recognition, (MS)
* Reduced overall printing cost to zero by implementing electronic dissemination of Committee report booklets vs printed version.
* Chapter Delegate since 1998 Grand Conclave, 7th District meeting and Annual State meeting.
* Leadership- Xi Kappa Kappa Chapter #893, Reclamation and Retention Chapter of the Year (MS).
* Leadership- Xi Kappa Kappa Chapter #893, Chapter of the Year, State of MS.

***Professional background***

* Bursar Tougaloo College
* Owner and Operator, Ida’s Restaurant & Catering
* Advisory Board member, Minority Male Leadership Initiative, Hinds Community College

***Personal background***

* Married, Wife Dr. Latoya T. Reed, Director of Veteran Affairs, Jackson State University
* Londyn Michelle Reed
* Lakyn McKenlei Reed

***Education***

* BS: Jackson State University
* MA: Jackson State University

# **Platform**

# **How We Move the 7th District Forward**

#### Fraternity Purpose

The purpose of the Fraternity shall be to bring about a union of college men of similar high ideals of scholarship and manhood in order to:

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

(b) Disseminate and inculcate those ideals among those with whom its member comes in contact;

(c) Cooperate with the schools where its chapters may be located in fostering these ideals;

(d) Occupy a progressive, helpful and constructive place in the civic and political life, domestically, and internationally;

(e) Prepare its members for greater usefulness in causes of humanity, freedom, and dignity of the individual; and,

(f) Aid down-trodden humanity in its effort to achieve higher social, economic, and intellectual status.

*At its core, my campaign is about executing our fraternity purpose, fulfilling the responsibilities of the office of Keeper of Records and Seal while preserving the traditions and protocols that have been defined by our district since its inception in 1935 when M.R. Austell was appointed the first seventh district representative.*

# **I. Service and Duty to Our Chapters**

# **Substantially strengthen our reporting and operational procedures to confront critical issues impacting our district.**

“We must put service before self and put aside all petty differences and undertake to meet the needs of our district and fraternity according to the demands of the times.”

These words expressed serve as a major component of my vision for the Office of 7th District Keeper of Records and Seal. Without reservation, I firmly believe that the 7th District need to address the demands of the times as it relates to timely, accurate and relevant information. It is important to examine the current status of what and how the International Office reflects our data in regards to our membership within the 7th District. To ensure that all required training developed and implemented by the Fraternity is conducted within the 7th District.

As the 7th District Keeper of Records and Seal, there are four **ACTION items** I would immediately employ:

**1.** Work with both the International Executive Director and the Grand KRS to reconcile the current 7th District membership database to ensure efficient accuracy and accountability.

**2.** Identify and address critical need areas that affect the chapters within the 7th District.

**3.** Verify and update as instructed per the District Representative all 7th District correspondence effective immediately, and to formerly disseminate said correspondence in accordance with the 7th District Constitution and Bylaws.

**4.** Implement a quarterly Webinar designed to address growing concerns related to the International Office system updates, chapter protocol and reporting procedures.

# **II. Protect Our Seal and Preserve Our Traditions and Protocols**

### Protect the 7th District and the traditions and protocols that are unique to us

We live in a culture which increasingly questions the need for fraternities, and the resulting discussions about the future of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Omega must continue to focus on the intellectual characteristics and leadership skills that define Omega men.

**ACTION PLAN:**

* Revisit and provide training on Omega traditions and protocols that are intrinsic to Omegas
  + Being Omega Sharp!
  + Communicating who we are internally and externally in order to protect the Omega brand.
* Preserve the right information for the correct length of time.
* Control and manage records management storage and destruction fees.
* Demonstrate proven practices of good faith through consistent implementation.
* Archive vital information for business continuity and disaster recovery.
* Provide information in a timely and efficient manner regardless of urgency of request.
* Use technology to manage and improve reporting processes.
* Integrate policies and procedures throughout 7th District.
* Establish ownership and accountability of the 7th District records.
* Arrange for continuous training and communication throughout the 7th District.
* Project an image of good faith, responsiveness and consistency.