



Que Times

An interview

with

Bro. Steve Watkins

Spring 2008 issue

The Tenth's Next

DR ?



Our Next District Rep?

Brother Steven Watkins currently is serving the Tenth District as the First Vice District Representative.

Brother Watkins discusses his qualifications and reasons why he seeks the District's top leadership post in a Question & Answer session with

Rho Gamma Gamma Chapter's Que-Times Editor

Brother Milbert O. Brown, Jr.

Que Times Question and Answer

Q: What best qualifies you to serve as the Tenth's District Representative?

A: I have demonstrated my passion and commitment in serving Omega on the chapter level as Keeper of Records & Seal, Vice Basileus and Basileus. I have chaired the By-Law Committee and helped in drafting the current chapter by-laws. Also as a member of Rho Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter, I chaired the Intake (MSP), social action and scholarship committees. On the District level I have been elected District Counselor and First Vice District Representative. I also served on the By-Laws Committee and helped in preparing the current District By-Laws and presented a workshop on "Parliamentary Procedure and Protocol."

"I believe that I performed well in every capacity that I have served Omega.

I have earned the confidence of the Brotherhood on the local, district and international levels,"

Brother Steven Watkins, 10th District's First Vice District Representative

Q: How has your past positions in District leadership prepared you for the District's top post?

A: My past positions have prepared me in numerous ways. Serving as Basileus certainly prepared me for chairing Omega meetings and knowing what is expected at the chapter level as it relates to the Tenth District and the national level. Serving as District Counselor gave me an in-depth knowledge of the legal issues facing Omega, a knowledge that I may have never obtained had it not been for my serving in the capacity of District Counselor for three terms. Serving as District Counselor also required me to increase my knowledge of parliamentary procedure. Serving as First Vice Tenth District Representative has prepared me greatly. Being second in command has required me to be prepared to serve as the DR. I must know what the DR knows. I have to be prepared to represent the Tenth District at Supreme Council meetings. The First Vice District Representative is the most important position that I have held in terms of my preparation. The First Vice Tenth District Representative prepares any Brother for the top post like no other position.

Q: What will be some of your featured projects/programs if you are elected as the DR?

A: The programs are there. If we as a District implement the fraternity's mandated programs, then we are serving Omega as we should. I do intend to focus on the reactivation of undergraduate chapters within the Tenth District. We are often challenged because majority of the four-year institutions are predominately white. The Black male enrollment is also relatively low at many of these institutions. We have undergraduate chapters that are simply inactive. I intend to focus on the reactivation of these chapters. Undergraduate chapters that are active must stay active. Additionally I intend to lead the District towards making some money in manners other than District dues. We have the ability to market ourselves in such a way to acquire corporate dollars to support our programs.

Q: In what way will the District's leadership team work with the international leadership when there is a problem within our District ?

A: Whatever the problem may be I am prepared to address it, to articulate, to resolve and solve it. The relationship that I have with the international leadership convinces me that the Tenth District can and will work effectively to deal with any problem that arises. As a trial attorney, certified arbitrator and landlord, I deal with apparent problems daily. Through my life experiences I have acquired the ability to resolve problems swiftly in a fair and objective matter. I am decisive.

Q: How can our chapters better serve Black communities within our District ?

A: Omega serving the Black communities is a must-Uplift. There are many areas and issues that need our service. Issues concerning education, health, economic development and crime are just a few. Our Black youth are in need of mentoring. Our Black families have health concerns that need addressing. Our Black adults need jobs, skills and training. We can serve our people best by leading the way in serving the needs of the community. I strongly encourage each Omega chapter, graduate and undergraduate, to make a difference in the lives of Black people; to give time, talent and treasure to our Black communities. The Tenth District is doing just that.

Q: What should be expected of each Tenth District chapter, if you become our DR?

A: Each Tenth District chapter is expected to perform and report on the mandated programs. Each chapter is also expected to timely submit forms and monies to IHQ and the District KRS. Each chapter is expected to attend the District meetings and the Grand Conclave. All of the chapters should elect strong leaders and uplift the Black community.

Q: How can financial graduate brothers help improve our relationship with undergraduate chapters and brothers?

A: Graduate chapters are expected to advise undergraduate chapters. Graduate brothers are also expected to advise the undergraduate chapter brothers not only on the workings of Omega, but also on life. If there is no active undergraduate chapter in the proximity of the graduate chapter, then that graduate chapter will be expected to participate in the plan to reactivate the undergraduate chapter. The undergraduate brothers can also reach out. Keep graduate chapters abreast of what's going on at its chapter. Invite graduate chapters to attend meetings, programs and events. These are just a few of the ways to strengthen the bonds.



Bro. Steven Watkins talks to Brother Grant Reynolds, on right Omega's 21st Grand Basileus at the 1998 Grand Conclave in New Orleans.

Bro. Reynold, also a lawyer, played a major role in President Truman's 1948 decision to desegregate the United States Armed Forces.

Brother Steven Watkins, Esq.

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“During my terms of office on the District level, I attended District Counselor, District Representative and First Vice District Representative training sessions conducted by Grand Officers. Theses training sessions were very significant in my preparation to lead the Tenth District,” Brother Steven Watkins