ELLSWORTH \textit{“DOBBY”} DOBSON—CO-FOUNDER

by Patrick W. Burke,
National Executive Director

December 30, 1986 was a great day of celebration for over 1400 attendees at the 1986 National Convention of Alpha Phi Omega. That day was proclaimed Ellsworth “Dobby” Dobson Day!

Arriving at a convention hotel with 1400 collegians might have been a little disconcerting to a man who just celebrated his eighty-first birthday, however “Dobby” joined in the fun and with the assistance of his wife Anna enjoyed the entire convention. On any occasion there were brothers seeking autographs, having their picture taken with him, or eagerly meeting him to shake his hand.

Ellsworth “Dobby” Dobson, a co-founder of our Fraternity was a center of attention throughout the 1986 National Convention. He was especially pleased when the voting delegates declared a day in his honor. Anna, his wife was excited when she received National Honorary Membership. At the opening ceremony of the convention, Dobby was recognized and received a standing ovation. As he came forward to the podium he was given a small parcel by his wife and then with well chosen comments presented the Fraternity a “Lafayette” banner that dated back to his time in college when he became a brother. Dobby knew that the Fraternity was concentrating on a serious fund raising drive through the Capital Campaign and as he presented the banner said he hoped that during the Alumni Auction it would bring “big bucks” to help in our efforts to have a successful Capital Campaign. Indeed later at the auction it brought in over $1,500 and the unknown bidder then presented the banner to the Fraternity to remain in our archives to be displayed at future National Conventions.

During another occasion that Dobby addressed the convention, he recalled being one of twelve other young men joining together to build a new fraternity based on the principles of the Boy Scouts of America. He remembered that he and his brothers wanted to build an organization to allow them the opportunities of Boy Scouting while they were in college. Dobby himself was very instrumental in the formation of the new organization. As he said, “I was the only one who could type so my job was formalizing the petitions, by-laws and constitution of the new organization which had to be submitted to the college for approval”. As we all know the Fraternity has come to court on these early writings as our living documents that have helped us become the Fraternity we are today.

Over the years Dobby has made historical contributions to the Fraternity. One of these items graces the wall of the National Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri. It is a small Lafayette College banner that contains several fraternity pins that also date back to the beginning of the Fraternity and the twelve founding brothers. Life for Dobby is usually pretty calm compared to the clamor he experienced in Houston. But as he said more than once during the Convention, “This is one of the happiest moments I can ever remember”. It was very obvious he had the time of his life attending a National Convention once again. For the brothers of Alpha Phi Omega the Convention of 1986 will be one remembered for a lifetime as over hundreds of brothers received a unique opportunity to meet Dobby Dobson, a very integral person in the beginning of our fraternity. Dobby graduated from Lafayette College in 1928 with a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering. During many years of his life he has lived and traveled in various areas of the United States. Today he resides in Sabetha, Kansas.
NATIONAL PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

GETTING STARTED

Did you ever have one of those days? I just wrote one of these columns last week (or so it seems) and now it’s deadline time again. Oh well...

It’s been said that 90% of life is just showing up. I think that a paraphrase might be in order. Maybe 90% of success is just getting started. When I think of all the things I am supposed to be doing, all the things I “have to” do by tomorrow or next week or next month, it’s easy to get bogged down. My first inclination is to panic or to just do nothing for a while to rest up for the challenge. The trouble with that is that things don’t go away, they just pile up and the problem becomes worse than it was before.

I suppose this is on my mind because I just spent a good part of the last two days cleaning up my office. I worked rather steadily at it, filling and writing and throwing things away until finally I had my environmental clutter down to an acceptable level. I looked around and I discovered that I felt really good about my accomplishment, even though I had not made any progress on the tasks at hand at all. The thing is that I had started and that allowed me to continue with the work that I had identified from the piles as critical. Since I was started, I kept on for a time and suddenly found that I had had the most productive day in quite some time. The very clutter had been confusing and frustrating me!

Now, admittedly, it’s a little late in my life for me to learn that there is an “optimal” amount of clutter before productivity suffers, but it seems important. I suppose that I have sort of known this before, sometimes, and you probably do too, but in case you don’t, give it a try. And don’t just think about cleaning up your desk or your room, although that would make your folks or your roommate happy. Think about cleaning up your life. Take a few minutes to think about all the things that are putting pressure on you. Maybe it’s A Phi O duties or school work or a relationship or your job. Sort out all of these things and decide which ones can be thrown away or given to someone else. Take some other things and file them away. If you learned a lesson, keep that and stop worrying about the specific circumstances. If there is something you cannot control right now, file it until some action is required from you and then do it. Meanwhile, deal with the things that come to the top of the “pile.”

It is easy to get overwhelmed, whether by fraternity responsibilities or something else. It helps to periodically prioritize. Want? Don’t stop reading! I promise that you won’t go into a boring time management lecture (in fact, I was trying to avoid that phrase altogether). Just be aware that things pile up for everyone and it doesn’t get better if we ignore it.

No, the thing is to just get started with what we can do and continue to do the parts of everything until, ultimately, the whole is done. Of course, by then there are new tasks to do and the cycle starts all over, but that’s life in the fast lane. O.K., that’s it. You’re through reading this stuff. Pick out something important to you (and to the Fraternity) and go out there and get started!

Dr. Stan Carpenter

TO: Brothers of Alpha Phi Omega
FROM: Earle M. Herbert, Past National President
SUBJECT: Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers,

Thanks for the cards and letters which many of you have sent to me. The kind words make me regret even more that the number has made it impossible for me to respond individually. Serving as your President has taught me a great deal about Leadership and Service, but it has shown me even more about the meaning of Brotherhood. For this and for the many small personal moments which I will never forget, my thanks again to you all.

Fraterly,
Earle
HAZING IS OUT!

by Patrick W. Burke,
National Executive Director

Would your chapter consider activities that might lead to chapter suspension, or charter revocation? Would you knowingly place your own membership in Alpha Phi Omega in jeopardy?

No, of course not! Well, it is a fact that some chapters and brothers do just that. The activity is hazing. The rationalization—erroneous chapter traditions and rites. The headline above spells it out very clearly—HAZING IS OUT!

Hazing, an anachronism that has long been associated with fraternities, is no longer considered an innocent pledging hijinks. One result of hazing accidents has been magnified by ever increasing lawsuits reflecting substantial monetary compensation for the injured individual. The other equally serious aspect of hazing is reflected in state lawmakers considering legislation to make hazing a punishable crime.

Student burned in hazing! Student killed from overdose of alcohol due to hazing! Student injured from paddling! Student paralyzed in hazing prank! These headlines are not made up; they are real occurrences. These are the reasons why Alpha Phi Omega has always considered hazing to be totally against the principles of our organization. The results of just one hazing incident such as just noted could cause extreme financial hardships on the Fraternity, or possibly the elimination of all activities of the Fraternity.

Therefore as a fraternity, we must all renew our efforts and seek to understand our responsibility to avoid hazing, or anything that can be construed as hazing, within our Fraternity’s activities. There is not a college or university today that has not made a statement about their growing concern with regard to the outcome of hazing incidents in fraternities. When it comes to hazing, Alpha Phi Omega is just like any other fraternity. Unless a chapter takes steps to guard against hazing activities, then that chapter is putting itself in jeopardy of suspension or charter revocation, and the individuals could be expelled from the Fraternity.

Reread Article IX, Section 12, of our National By-Laws. It states, “There shall be no hazing or informal initiation in connection with the function of the chapter. Any mistreatment of pledges at any time shall be considered a violation of the purpose of the chapter and of the National Fraternity.” Our National Pledge Standards also state that there shall be no place for hazing practices, the degradation of individuals, personal service demands or other practices inconsistent with the spirit and principles of Alpha Phi Omega. If hazing is even a remote possibility within your chapter, then take whatever steps necessary to insure that it does not happen. As brothers of Alpha Phi Omega we live by our principles of Leadership, Friendship and Service and we instill these principles into those who are to follow us. Make sure your chapter say “HAZING IS OUT”!

AVOIDING TRAPS

by Gerald A. Schroeder,
National Vice President

We often emphasize a parade of horrible stories involving physical mistreatment of and injuries to pledges in order to discourage hazing. While these examples are indeed horrible, their reticitation as examples of prohibited membership practices can be misleading just as litigations of lost jobs and divorces by alcoholics can provide a false sense of security to the problem drinker. In both cases, because none of the well-publicized extreme symptoms are present, it is assumed there is no problem. Nothing could be further from the truth—unless you believe that drinking cannot be a problem until a family or job is lost or that hazing is not present unless a pledge is physically mistreated or injured.

In addition, many planners of chapter membership programs focus too much on avoiding hazing. That is like a basketball team playing not to lose. Ultimately, such play almost always guarantees a loss. Likewise, a pledge training program is not planned to avoid hazing—it is planned to win, to achieve the positive objective of making it possible for pledges to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to function as effective active members of our Fraternity. That means the pledge period must teach the worth of human dignity, promote academic scholarship, instill a commitment to continuing service, provide opportunities to participate in leadership development exercises, and cultivate true friendship among the pledges and with the active members. A program designed to achieve those purposes cannot possibly involve hazing even in its most subtle forms.

The way to avoid falling into either the trap of false security or of “playing not to lose” is a complete review of the pledge training program by the entire chapter before every rush. This review should ensure that every aspect of the pledge period has an articulate, positive benefit that furthers the purposes and goals mentioned above. In this manner, not only will hazing, horrible or otherwise, not be a problem, but you’ll end up with new brothers who truly reflect and are committed to the cardinal principles of Alpha Phi Omega.

Attention Alumni — The Torch & Trefoil would like to publish your “milestones” in a special column feature. Send your news to: Editor, Torch & Trefoil, 1627 Main Street, Suite 400, Kansas City, Missouri 64108.
HOUSTON CONVENTION

EXCITING TIMES!

by Patrick W. Murrie,
National Executive Director

The National Convention held in Houston, Texas in December was a most exciting time for all who attended. New opportunities for service were introduced on the convention floor, with sessions on continuous service opportunities, working in a soup kitchen and serving food to the homeless. A new counseling group at a local YMCA, Zeta Phi Omega chapter had been part of the convention since 1980 and had helped to improve the lives of children and youth in the community. Today the young women who are members of the counseling group volunteer their time to themselves to continue their rich history of contributions and to their Howard University, Volunteers in America, and Activists at Howard probably said it best, "They have worked selflessly, enthusiastically, and with discipline to meet the requirements for volunteering. My office is ready to assist these young women in any possible way in the larger chapter's mission.

Another "calendaring" event to be recognized was Brother Ulanro, L. Omega, the founder of the Philomel, which had its 90th anniversary celebration in December. The celebration included a luncheon and a special dinner highlighting the achievements of the Philomel, including its role in the development of the national convention.

Delegates from the Texas State Fraternity Board and the City of Houston attended the convention, which was held in the Hobby Center. The convention began with a special event for new recruits, who were welcomed by the Texas State Fraternity Board and the City of Houston.

The convention also included a reception at the Center for the Arts, with a special performance by the Texas State University Band. The reception was attended by the chapter's officers and members, as well as guests from the local community. Following the reception, the delegates met for the annual business meeting, where the chapter's officers and members discussed issues of importance to the chapter and the larger organization.

Sarah D. Johnson
National Executive Director

The 1988 Convention was a huge one—over 1,000 delegates attended the convention in Houston. The signatures chapters were Alpha Phi Omega and Lambda Chi Alpha. The convention was held in the Hobby Center at the University of Houston. The event was attended by over 1,000 delegates, making it a huge success.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

The Leadership Development Workshop was held during the convention, with sessions on various topics, including leadership, service, and community involvement. The workshop was attended by members from the national organization and other sorority and fraternity organizations.

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**ALPHA PHI OMEGA PHILIPPINES ATTEND ’86 CONVENTION**

Alpha Phi Omega is developing a stronger relationship with Alpha Phi Omega of the Philippines. A delegation of brothers from the Philippines attended the 1986 National Convention. That delegation was headed by Carlos Calliwara who was the chief delegate. He and his attending brothers made their presence felt throughout the convention by making many new friendships. Another important person associated with Alpha Phi Omega Philippines is Dr. Librado I. Ureta. Dr. Ureta was responsible for founding Alpha Phi Omega in the Philippines.

At the first banquet of the Convention Brother Calliwara gave a very inspiring oration when the Philippine delegation presented to the Fraternity an exquisitely hand carved wooden fraternity crest. He said it was a symbol for all of us to lead the world toward a higher level of service and a greater feeling of brotherhood; that “we are not to keep brotherhood amongst ourselves but we are to share it with all humankind.”

![Philippine Wood Crest proudly displayed in the National Office.](image)

![Lisa Tully of Delta Omega presents Earle M. Herbert, National President, the eternal flame of service at the first session of the 1986 National Convention.](image)

**NATIONAL AWARDS PRESENTED**

The following National Awards were presented at the 1986 National Convention:

- Phi Chapter, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida received the M. R. Disborough Service to Scouting National Award.
- Lambda Omicron, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia was presented the Josiah Evans Historian’s Award for 1986.
- Lambda Omicron, West Virginia University was also presented the Arno (Shorty) Nowotny National Service Award.
- The Man of the Year Award was presented to Epsilon Zeta Chapter, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York.
- The Outstanding Exhibit Award went to Xi Delta Chapter, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

Additionally, a highlight of the concluding banquet of the Convention, two National Distinguished Service Awards were presented:

- Berkeley J. Duncan, past Member-at-Large and National Service Chairman
- Alex Lewandowski, J.D., LL. M., National Legal Counsel

**Alpha Phi Omega**

400 Mainmark Bldg.
1627 Main Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64108

**Moving?**

**NEW ADDRESS**

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City/State/Zip ____________________________

Mail to: 400 Mainmark Bldg.
1627 Main Street
Kansas City, MO 64108

Dear Brothers:

Well, spring is here and you know what that means—new Alumni for Alpha Phi Omega!

As some of the Brothers of your chapter prepare for graduation, I hope that you have made plans to keep them involved in our Fraternity.

How? Through a local Chapter Alumni Association and Life Membership!

If your Chapter does not have an Alumni Association, I would encourage you to form one now and apply for recognition through the National Office so that the Brothers in your Chapter who are graduating will have a means to continue their involvement in Alpha Phi Omega.

The procedure to form an association is, believe it or not, painless and very little paperwork is required.

The National Office has a “how to” pamphlet on forming an Association and will be glad to send it to you free of charge.

Please also remember Life Membership which is an important way to stay involved while also supporting our Fraternity.

Applications are available from the National Office.

And—if your Chapter has 100% enrollment of Life Members I will come and prepare a hamburger cookout for you! (It ain’t like a five star restaurant, but it’s good!)

And if your chapter has 100% Life Members and organizes or re-registers an Alumni Association, I’ll make it a steak cookout!

Remember, the National Alumni Committee is always ready to assist you. Please call on us!

I’m looking forward to doing the cooking for your chapter!

Fraternally yours,

Chuck Bowen, Chairman
National Alumni Committee