

President's Pen

Warm greetings during this warm winter, in the northeast at least. As mentioned in my last letter to you, we hit the ground running with the regional winter Conclaves. We've gathered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Drexel Univ.); Troy, New York (RPI); and finally Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Robert Morris) on March 10th. The theme for these Conclaves has been leadership based on the teachings of Jim Collins in his book, *Good to Great*. I recommend the book to anyone looking to hone his leadership skills.

Through the book, we've been able to discuss the hedgehog concept, getting the right people on the bus and the stockade paradox. Through interactive exercises, we've brought the discussion around to discussing what's really going on in the Chapters and ways to determine leadership styles and methods to improve them. I've been pleased by the attendance, and the resident Brothers' willingness to be open. I truly believe the concepts of leadership discussed help the residents realize, in word and deed, what steps they can take to improve. I also appreciate the alumni participation and support for their Chapters. Special thanks go out to Brothers Paul Thallner HΦ '89; Joe Tait, EΦ '82; Joseph D'Amico, ΠΦ '86; Steven Kelley, ΣΤΦ '81; James Reardon, ΣΤΦ '07; James Ground, ΔΦ '89; Rick Matthews, ΦΛ '81; Jeffrey Marzina, EΦ '85 and General William "Gus" Pagonis, ΦΛ '64, who volunteered their time to discuss their experiences and leadership tips. Finally, without Dr. Shane McGoey, ΦΠΧ '88, the Conclaves would not be as successful as they have been.

Our next Convention will be in the summer of 2013, and we've been researching sites and discussing programming to encourage participation between all Brothers and their families. It is my hope that we can have a Convention that is attractive to alumni as a vacation for them and their families. Of course we must conduct the business aspects of the Fraternity, but we also want to propose a location and activities where we can all have fun.

Recently, I penned a letter addressing incidents that have occurred at our Chapters. A copy is included here in the Garnet & White. Please take the time to read it and give me your feedback and suggestions. Thank you!

In the Bond,

Vic

Victor J Ramos, ΦΛ '91
National President