



The Scottish Rite Clarion

CLARION

*Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, PHA—Orient of Illinois
Volume 9 Issue No. 1—Winter 2018*



*The Cross
of Salem*

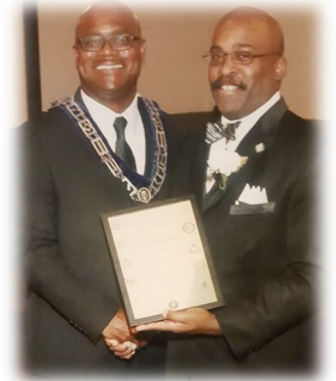
*Photo Highlights
of the Centennial
Illinois Council of Deliberation*



*Holiday
Charity*

A Father & Son Moment

PHOTOS OBTAINED FROM SOUTHERN CROSS LODGE #112 FACEBOOK PAGE



What greater pride can a father in the Masonic Order receive than to see his son achieve goals and objectives that only a few in the jurisdiction are able to attain. Special congratulations to Sovereign Grand Inspector General Melvin Frierson, Deputy for the Orient of Illinois and to his son, Sublime Prince Bretton Frierson for being one of a handful of father/son combinations who have served as Worshipful Master of the same Lodge. Bretton Frierson was recently installed as the Worshipful Master of Southern Cross Lodge #112 where Past Grand Master Frierson served as Master in 1974 and 1975. Congratulations and best wishes in your terms of leadership and service.

From the Desk of the Editor

GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL DARYL L. ANDREWS, 33^o

In order to potentially increase the publication schedule, it is recommended that each Commander-In-Chief of each Consistory appoint a reporter to convey articles and photos of events to this office on a quarterly basis to ensure that the works done in each Valley are captured in this publication. Please send the names of the Consistory Reporter as well as Consistory Rosters to Clarion@AndrewsPress.com.

Next Edition Cutoff: July 11, 2018



Divine Inspirations

SUBLIME PRINCE TARA F.G. DERAMUS, 32^o

"TO HAVE FAITH"

To have faith is to understand how life works. If you have a building that stands on weak foundation it will fall, so be sure the building you build is on a strong foundation so it will not fall. In life your faith should be just as strong so your soul will not fall.



From the Desk of the Deputy for the Orient of Illinois

SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL MELVIN FRIERSON, 33°

Dear Fraters and Loyal Ladies:

Greetings,

I thank God for all of you and I thank you so much for making our 100th Year Anniversary Session of the Illinois Council of Deliberation a blasting success. Give yourselves a well deserved pat on the back, your input and participation was invaluable and very key to our success.

The visit of our Sovereign Grand Commander Basil Sands was the highlight of this year's Council, along with other visitors and dignitaries. In the next issue of the Clarion we will publish a multi picture edition of the session.

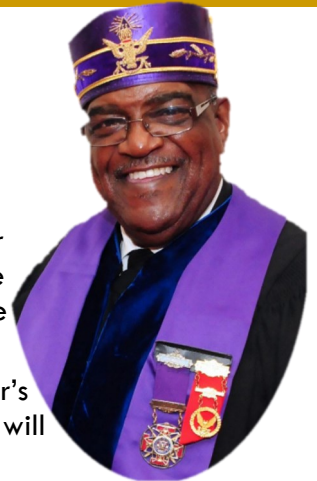
I want to thank GIG Frank Jarvis, 33° for his work on the Polo Shirts, GIG James Jones, 33° for the raffle and SGIG DePlessie Drew, 33° and GIG Earl Young, 33° for their work on the medallion and all of the others of you who played a major or minor role, what you did was equally important and necessary to our success.

May God continue to Bless and keep you is my fervent prayer.

Fraternally,

Melvin Frierson

Melvin Frierson, 33°



From the Desk of the Secretary

SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL JAMES A. MITCHELL, 33°

"A well prepared man never trembles."

The Orient of Illinois (PHA) celebrated its "100th" Annual Session in October 2017. The celebration was second to none. The Orient was "graced" by the presence of Sovereign Grand Commander Basil L. Sands, 33°. We thanked the Deputy, Melvin Frierson, 33°, for his leadership during the historical occasion. Congratulations to the 13 members who have been in Scottish Rite Masonry of Illinois (PHA) for 50 years or more. Most of all, we thanked the attendees for their unswerving dedication and participation which made the event successful.

The Orient's 101st Annual Session will be held October 19-21, 2018 at the Abraham Lincoln-Doubletree Hotel located 700 Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois. Please plan to attend.

We ask you to continue to support the Orient's (PHA) activities and endeavors. Don't forget to send the "Clarion's" editor articles of your Consistory's activities.



New State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler

The Illinois State Grand Assembly, Order of the Golden Circle, State of Illinois, has a new State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler. Loyal Lady Janet Lilly of Hiram Assembly #54, Order of the Golden Circle of Cairo, Illinois became the 41st State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler of the Illinois State Grand Assembly. Her labors in the Assembly are renown across the Orient and her efforts on behalf of the order and society, at large, in Southern Illinois have helped to make the region a better place for all.

Congratulations and best wishes to Loyal Lady Lilly!!!



The Cross of Salem

GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL DARYL L. ANDREWS, 33^o

Salem is an ancient, Middle Eastern town mentioned in the Holy Bible in several passages. It is referenced in Genesis 14:18—"And **Melchizedek** king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God." It is also referenced in Psalms 76:1-3—"In Judah is God known: his name is great in Israel. In Salem also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling place in Zion. There brake he the arrows of the bow, the shield, and the sword, and the battle. Selah." A third reference can be found in the New Testament of the Holy Bible in Hebrews 7:1-2—"For this **Melchizedek**, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually." These scriptures equate Salem with "power" and "peace" which are attributes that are most definitely equated with God. They also identify Melchizedek as the King of Salem, the King of Peace, who is set to represent these attributes as a chief priest of God.

In peace, there is laid a strong foundation upon which a vast array of structures can be organized and built. In order to maintain peace, power and authority are required in order to provide structure and order. As Melchizedek was held accountable for order through the wisdom and guidance of the Most High God, so are the leaders who bear the Cross of Salem emblem. These leaders are situated with the power and authority to maintain peace despite the storms that may cross their paths. As such, it is of critical importance that our leaders be like Melchizedek. As a chief priest, he was worshipful and transformed those instructions into practical actions in the leadership of his people.

The term "worshipful" is a term that should be familiar to all of the bodies within the Masonic diaspora. It does not just apply to the Blue Lodge but it applies to every house. To some it is just a title or style attached to the head of a Lodge. To others, it is a term of action describing the position that the leader of the body should be in. Worship to our heavenly father up above shall yield wisdom and direction which are key components to the substance of good leadership. In the minds of many, these qualities are the substance of things hoped for in all good leaders. The evidence of which was shown in the respect given to Melchizedek during his day and age. Consider that Abraham, father of many nations and devout worshippers to God, gave Melchizedek a tithe. It was Abraham's faith in God that delivered Ishmael and Isaac who would birth many nations. His respect for a chief priest of God speaks, the King of Salem, provides evidence to the works of Melchizedek. (Next Page)

Many scholars consider Melchizedek as a forerunner to Christ. Yet, as there can only be one Melchizedek and one Jesus Christ, the Cross of Salem, the Cross of Peace, is also an ever present reminder of their efforts. As Christ gave Christians the opportunity for everlasting life according to the scriptures, his sacrifice cannot be duplicated. This is the new dispensation. Melchizedek's efforts fell under the old dispensation and the promise changed with the sacrifice of Christ. As such, this may be the likely reason why the emblem is slanted for the leadership of the Scottish Rite. Yet, the power of the Office of Sovereign Grand Commander remains in place and order is maintained through his worshipful state to ensure that peace prevails. So, like Melchizedek, the Grand Commander is as Sovereign over the jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite as Melchizedek was sovereign over Salem and his leadership as directed by the Most High God helps to not only keep that peace but also lay the foundation for future growth.

In etymological terms, the City of Salem and "Jerusalem" hold the same meaning. Jerusalem or "Yerusalem" simply means "city of peace". Scholars, however, have varying opinions on "Salem" and "Jerusalem" as synonymous terms. Other translations refer to "Jerusalem" as "foundation of peace." King David, from the line of Abraham, who was blessed by Melchizedek, became the King of Jerusalem. It is from this bloodline, this foundation which received a blessing at the city of peace, that the Prince of Peace was born. By the hands of our existing leaders, our sovereign commanders, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General, the foundation of peace has led to the extension peace and benevolence through the virtues of Melchizedek and Jesus as expressed through the cardinal virtues of the Masonic Order itself.

The un-slanted cross is used symbolically by faiths to represent the leader in the same religious light as Melchizedek. The Pope's triple roles as leader of worship, teacher, and community leader are represented thusly. It aligns him with St. Peter whose powers and responsibilities were temporal, spiritual, and material. These align with the three theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity. Even though Freemasonry is not a religion, these same three principles are the cornerstone of the order.

The cross, un-slanted, is also used to represent officers of a Grand Commandery of Knights Templar. Templars of old committed themselves to the protection of the Holy Land while Templars of new commit themselves to the protection of the faith. In like manner with the Pope, faith is the key principle which is marked by the emblem in their eyes. As the focus of the Scottish Rite is philosophical yet spiritual, this provides another hint as to why the cross may be slanted for the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite. Despite the final position of the cross for leadership, the messages of power and peace through order ring loudly and clearly which is the key to the emblem itself.

The kingdom of the Northern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry is called the Holy Empire. The king of the Holy Empire is the Sovereign Grand Commander who wields the power granted him by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Jurisdiction in efforts to maintain peace and order and create growth. This kingdom is dedicated to the principles of the Rite which amplifies and elaborates the lessons of the Craft or the cardinal virtues of Freemasonry through Ineffable, Historical, Philosophical, Traditional and Chivalric Degrees. These degrees are grouped and categorized to convey specific objectives and meanings of the virtues of Freemasonry. Developed years ago, they are categorized and organized as follows:

The Lodge of Perfection constitutes the "Ineffable Degrees"

- **4th degree Secret Master.** *The Fourth Degree emphasizes duty, fidelity, integrity, and the necessity for secrecy in all confidential relationships.*
- **5th degree Perfect Master.** *This degree teaches that trustworthiness is more precious than life and is the foundation of Masonic honor. Also, we must pay due respect to the memory of a deceased worthy Brother.*
- **6th degree Intimate Secretary.** *This degree teaches that devotion to one's friends and zealously in performing one's duties are rewarding virtues.*
- **7th degree Provost and Judge.** *This degree teaches us to judge righteously, without respect to person, and that one law and one custom shall apply to all. Let justice be impartial, tempered with deserved mercy.*
- **8th degree Intendant of the Building.** *This degree teaches that each new honor is meant to be a step toward perfection in the moral code.*
- **9th degree Elect of Nine.** *The lessons taught in this degree are that we should be careful not to be too zealous in executing justice, even in a good cause, and that we should avoid injuring or harming any person by hasty or irresponsible action.*
- **10th degree Elect of Fifteen.** *The teachings of this degree are that ambition and jealousy can tempt men to evil deeds, that righteousness will eventually triumph over evil, and that evil doers will be punished.*
- **11th degree Sublime Elect of Twelve.** *This degree dwells on good citizenship. Evil doings should be punished. Honesty and respect for others should be rewarded. Be earnest, honest and sincere.*
- **12th degree Grand Master Architect.** *This degree teaches that the Mason, as he learns to use the tools and instruments of his trade and skill, also learns to contemplate the many aspects of life and deal with them as a child of God, steadily advancing to those heights of experience which we call perfection.*
- **13th degree Master of the Ninth Arch.** *This degree teaches that difficulties and dangers, however great, should not deter the true and faithful brother from progressing onward to perfection. It teaches us to be upright, patient and persevering.*
- **14th degree Grand Elect, Perfect and Sublime Mason.** *In the Scottish Rite, this degree is the summit of Ancient Craft Masonry. As the crowning degree of the Lodge of Perfection, its essence is the holiness of God and reverence for His Holy Name. God will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain.*

The Chapter of Rose Croix constitutes the “Historical & Philosophical Degrees”

- **15th degree Knights of the East or Sword.** This degree teaches the important lessons of loyalty to conviction and devotion to right.
- **16th degree Prince of Jerusalem.** This degree teaches loyalty to truth and fidelity to duty.
- **17th degree Knight of the East and West.** The lessons of this degree are that loyalty to God is man’s primary allegiance, and the temporal governments not founded upon God and His righteousness will inevitably fall.
- **18th degree Knights of the Rose Croix.** The lessons taught in this degree are that man must have a new Temple in his heart where God is worshipped in spirit and in truth and that he must have a new law of love which all men everywhere may understand and practice. This degree affirms the broad principles of universality and tolerance.

The Consistory constitutes the “Traditional and Chivalric Degrees”

- **19th degree Grand Pontiff.** This degree proclaims the spiritual unity of all who believe in God and cherish the hope of immortality, no matter what religious leader they follow or what creed they profess. It is concerned primarily with the perennial conflict between light and darkness, good and evil, God and Satan.
- **20th degree Grand Master of All Symbolic Lodges; or, Master ad Vitam.** This degree is a drama of the American spirit confronting the challenge of disloyalty and treason. Masonic principles and leadership are subjected to a crucial test. The degree demonstrates the Masonic condemnation of all who conspire against the security of the nation and the happiness of our people.
- **21st degree Noachite or Prussian Knight.** This degree teaches that Freemasonry is not a shield for evil doing and that justice is one of the chief supports of our fraternity.
- **22nd degree Knights of the Royal Axe; or Prince of Libanus.** In this degree, the dignity of labor is demonstrated. It is no curse, but a privilege, for man to be allowed to earn his sustenance by work. Idleness, not labor, is disgraceful.
- **23rd degree Chief of the Tabernacle.** This degree teaches that impure thought and selfish, unworthy ambitions are corrupting and destructive, and that a man who forgets his duty to family, country, and God will be morally and spiritually destroyed
- **24th degree Prince of the Tabernacle.** This degree teaches that a mutual belief in one true, living God should bind men together in the service of humanity and in a worldwide brotherhood
- **25th degree Knight of the Brazen Serpent.** This degree teaches that there are desert stretches in every individual life in the history of every nation, with a resultant breakdown of discipline and loss of faith. This degree is a clarion call to faith-in ourselves, in each other, and in God.

- **26th degree Prince of Mercy.** This degree teaches the quality of mercy; that it is a spirit of compassion and a tenderness of heart which dispose us to overlook injuries and to treat an offender better than he deserves.
- **27th degree Knight Commander of the Temple.** This degree teaches that Scottish Rite Freemasonry believes in the concept of a free church in a free state, each supreme in its own sphere, neither seeking to dominate the other, but cooperating for the common good.
- **28th degree Knight of the Sun.** This degree using the symbolism of the tools and implements of architecture teaches that by building high moral character among its adherents, Freemasonry may advance man’s determined quest for the achievement of unity and good will throughout the world
- **29th degree Knights of St. Andrew.** This degree emphasizes the Masonic teachings of equality and toleration. We are reminded that no one man, no one Church, no one religion, has a monopoly of Truth; that while we must be true and faithful to our own convictions, we must respect the opinions of others.
- **30th degree Knights Kadosh.** This degree portrays the tests and ceremonies that symbolize the experiences we must undergo in the building of character and the sacredness of duty.
- **31st degree Grand Inspector Inquisitor Commander.** This degree reminds us to remember the frailty and imperfection of human nature and that the purpose of punishment is repentance and reformation and not for an eye for eye.
- **32nd degree Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret.** This degree reminds us of the words of the Master: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

Through these degrees, faith, hope and charity. In them, are found the definitions of a good man and good leader. When transformed into practical action, they convert the thoughts of good men into stones that can be utilized to build a strong tower on the foundation of peace. By doing so, they extend the kingdom physically and spiritually and open pathways for future growth.

With leadership comes duty and responsibility. Those who bear the Cross of Salem, whether slanted or not, hold a sacred duty to ensure that the cardinal virtues of the Rite are translated into practical action that can extend the peace and benevolence within the walls of the kingdom. In doing so, peace will prevail within and eventually expand without to newer, broader horizons making the unknown known.

Holy Bible—Genesis 14, Psalms 76, Hebrews 7, Matthew 1
“Degrees of the Scottish Rite”, www.uscnjpha.org, retrieved 1/20/2018
Sharp, Granville, “Jerusalem; or, an answer to the following enquiries: what is the Etymology of the word Jerusalem? and is there any connection between Salem and Jerusalem? etc.”, Richard Edwards Crane Court Fleet Street, 1808, pp. 2-7



Norman's Nook—From the Archives of William L. Norman

PHOTO BY GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL WILLIAM L. NORMAN, 33°



This photo from the archive of Grand Inspector General William L. Norman captures some of Illinois' most prominent Scottish Rite Masons along with Sovereign Grand Inspector General Leland D. French, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Northern Jurisdiction. Sovereign Grand Commander French was the owner and director of the Leland D. French Funeral Home in Cleveland, Ohio. He passed in 1973 of natural causes and this photo appears to have been taken early in his term as Sovereign Grand Commander which extended from 1965 to 1973.

Among the Illinoisans captured in the photo from left to right in the first row are Sovereign Grand Inspectors General Vernon B. Williams, Obed Vanderburg and Leland D. French—Sovereign Grand Commander. Sovereign Grand Inspector General Frank Summers holds the right end of the first row with Corneal Davis standing third from the right. On the second row is Sovereign Grand Inspectors General Henry G. Fort, Genoa S. Washington and Leon Stewart.

Although the date of the photo is not certain, the Deputy for the Orient of Illinois was none other than Sovereign Grand Inspector General Summers (right) as alluded to by his pocket jewel. The pocket jewel of Summers helps to place this photo between 1966 and 1968. He transitioned the role to Sovereign Grand Inspector General Williams (left) after being elected to Lieutenant Grand Commander of the Northern Jurisdiction. Collectively, these Illinoisans represent the Northern, Central (Stewart) and Southern (Summers) Hemispheres of the State of Illinois.



Milestone

Council of Deliberation

A century marks 100 years of service and is a key milestone that many organizations in recent years have not been able to reach. Although the Orient of Illinois has actually been in existence since 1913, the Council of Deliberation Sessions for the Orient of Illinois were not implemented annually during the initial years. Yet, having reached 100 years of existence and service, the Orient stands strong and tall as one of the premier Orients of the Northern Jurisdiction. Under the leadership of Sovereign Grand Inspector General Melvin Frierson, the Orient is poised to continue along in strength for the next 100 years to come.







Someone You Should Know: Sherwood Edwards

SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL MELVIN FRIERSON, 33^o, DEPUTY FOR THE ORIENT OF ILLINOIS

Grand Inspector General Sherwood Edwards has been a respected educator at the College of DuPage for more than 30 years. A Professor of Sociology, he has received multiple awards for his leadership and service. In 2012 he received the Professional of the Year by the Worldwide Who's Who organization and is now a permanent fixture in the publications of the organization.

Dr. Edwards has taught at the College of DuPage for more than a quarter of a century. He also serves on various internal and external committees, continues to teach part-time, and advises students to help them become successful individuals.

He received his doctorate in adult and continuing education from Northern Illinois University in 2005. The focus of his dissertation was tracking students who graduated from his program to determine how civically engaged they were. Dr. Edwards has been a Kettering Foundation Scholar, Dayton, Ohio. His dissertation topic was born at the Kettering Foundation's Scholars Seminars. He was Director of the MBA Program in Institution Management at George Williams College, President of the Faculty at College of DuPage and President of the College of DuPage Annuitants Association.

Since 1978, Dr. Edwards has been the recipient of over 30 awards and recognitions associated with his status as a teacher. A Lifetime Worldwide Who's Who member, he was also an adjunct professor at Northern Illinois University. Actively involved in curriculum development for sociology, he has created courses that delve into macro sociology, marriage and family, racial ethnic minorities, social research analysis, social organization structure, and emerging groups. His publications are *The Project Support Story*, *America's Prisons*, *No Final Victory* (play); and *National Issues Forums: an Alternative to Promote Students' Civic Service and Community Development*.

He has written numerous personnel policy guideline manuals and organization bylaws for both profit and not-for-profit organizations, including the Bank of Oakbrook Terrace, Oakbrook, Illinois. In 2009 Dr. Edwards wrote a Procedure Guideline Manual for Conversion of Data to SPSS Pre and Post Course



Assessment. The manual was produced to evaluate faculty performance in the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Dr. Edwards became involved in his profession after planning to become an attorney while pursuing his bachelor's degree in order to help protect those less fortunate within the legal system. However, after taking classes with Dr. William Place, he was advised that he had a natural born talent to teach and decided to pursue a career in education. He attributes his success to his family

ancestry, which traces back to Africa and to the 12th century in England.

Dr. Edwards, who has four children and six grandchildren, and is actively involved with a number of organizations. He is a member of the Illinois Articulation Initiative, the State Universities Retirement System of Illinois, the Kettering Foundation, The Mathematics Association of America, the American Sociological Association. He is also a 33rd Degree Mason, Prince Hall Affiliation and a Shriner.

In 1983, Dr. Edwards formally began his search for his ancestors. Today he has traced his ancestry into slavery, and through DNA testing by African Ancestry, has traced his ancestry on both sides of his parentage to Africa. His father's ancestry traces to the Tsonga Tribe in Mozambique, and his mother's ancestry to the Djola and Balanta people of Guinea-Bissau. Dr. Edwards is the great great grandson of Henderson Judd (slave owner) and Mary Judd (slave), great grandson of Archie Judd and Nellie Cameron, grandson of John Judd and Ella Prince, and son of Sherwood Edwards and Mollie Jane Judd. On his father's side he is the great grandson of Henry Edwards (slave) who was owned by slave owner Seth Edwards from Morrisville, North Carolina. On his mother's side, Henderson and Mary Judd (who bore nine children for him) lived openly in Chatham County, North Carolina after the Emancipation Proclamation of 1865. He also plans to travel to Africa in an effort to symbolically return his relative to her ancestral home. He hopes that HBO will entertain a script on the topic of his ancestry and document the trip.

Grand Inspector General Sherman Edwards is someone you should know!!!

Valley of Waukegan—Holiday Baskets

GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL STEPHEN A. TAYLOR, 33°

Tis the season..." Once again the brothers of Rufus Mitchell Lodge #107 and the fraters of North Shore Consistory #91 partnered together to bring a little joy to families throughout the north shore communities of Waukegan and North Chicago.

On December 23, 2017, the holiday baskets were delivered, sorted and distributed at the Rufus Mitchell Lodge Hall at 1416 14th Street in Waukegan. With assistance of a local community service agency, thirty-five (35) families were blessed to receive all the holiday trimmings which included a 14lb turkey, potatoes, canned goods, corn bread mix and other non-perishable items that would satisfy the appetite of the grateful recipients.

Worshipful Master Arthur Strong commented that it's a good feeling to celebrate the holiday season by passing forward our blessings with others during this time of sharing and giving. Commander-in-Chief Larry Burnett, 32° commented how beautiful his thoughts are envisioning these families sitting together and enjoying a wholesome home cooked meal that will warm both their hearts and stomachs.

The brothers pictured above accompanying their respective leadership were: (L-R) SP Charles Bailey 32°, SP Russell Dumas 32°, PM Angelo Munn 32°, SGIG Donnie Merritt 33°, PMWGM Otis W. Cromartie, Sr., 33°, EA Johnnie Johnson, Jr., and of course, CIC/SP Larry Burnett 32°. (Not pictured is EA Lindell Myers)

The recipients' smiling faces let each of us know our efforts were much appreciated. May God continue to bless all of us. Happy Holidays!



Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)

GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL MAJOR LACY, 33°

HLAA was founded in 1979 by Howard "Rocky" Stone, a retired CIA agent, who endured hearing loss from his service in the United States Army. Rocky was well-known in the agency for both his skill and his hearing loss. On one occasion he was having a hard time "hearing" when talking with then-Director Richard Helms, so Rocky plopped himself on Helms' desk and asked him to face him directly so he could read his lips! Another time, his old-fashioned body hearing aid was mistaken for a recording spy device and was confiscated. Rocky earned the Agency's highest honor and went onto establish an organization for people who have hearing loss and want to stay in the hearing world with technology and strategies.

Hard-of-Hearing Heroes Project

The Hard-of-Hearing Heroes Project is a new initiative launched by the National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF). The aim is to preserve the experiences of veterans with hearing loss for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. Veterans with hearing loss will be interviewed for the project using CART (communication access real-time translation) captioning. NCRF and HLAA have partnered to interview multiple veterans with profound hearing loss at the HLAA headquarters on February 18, and at the HLAA2017 Convention in Salt Lake City, UT. Please sign up by contacting April Weiner, NCRF Manager, at aweiner@ncra.org.

Valley of East St. Louis—Holiday Baskets at Lincoln Middle School

PHOTOS BY SUBLIME PRINCE BRETTON FRIERSON, 32^o



HLAA Membership

HLAA offers two types of memberships for U.S. veterans:

- **Digital Membership**—This complimentary membership includes our award-winning Hearing Loss Magazine in digital format;
- **Non-Digital Membership**—Hearing Loss Magazine delivered to your mail box; complimentary for one year, renewal at \$35/year.

Listening Systems

Reduced cost assistive listening systems for retired and active-duty military service members and their families – In an effort to improve the quality of life for those who serve our country, Williams Sound has proudly teamed with the Military Audiology Association (MAA) to offer the Retiree Assistive Listening Devices (RALD) program to both retired and active-duty military service members and their families. The RALD program was created to provide these individuals access to assistive listening devices (ALDs) at a reduced cost, along with free personalized telephone support. For more information on RALD, please visit Williams Sound or Military Audiology Association Veterans Now Eligible for Telecommunications Equipment from Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) –Program provides equipment for military veterans living with hearing or speech loss. Adaptive telecommunications equipment, including text telephones (TTY), captioned telephones and other devices are available to individuals who meet certain qualifications. To learn more about VDDHH, Virginia Relay and TAP for veterans, call **800.552.7917**.

Valley of Chicago—SGIG Ernest L. Johnson Christmas Basket Program

PHOTOS BY SUBLIME PRINCE ROBERT WOOLRDIGE SR., 32° AND LOYAL LADY CILICIA JOHNSON, #4



Chicago Assembly Celebrates 101st Anniversary

PHOTOS BY LOYAL LADY CILICIA JOHNSON AND LOYAL LADY DOMINIQUE SCOTT

Chicago Assembly #4 was organized in the City of Chicago in the year 1916 as an auxiliary to Western Consistory #28. The Assembly was the product of an idea that the Northern Jurisdiction obtained from the Southern Jurisdiction. Sovereign Grand Inspector General Robert Pendleton, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Southern Jurisdiction, created and organized the initial auxiliaries. This idea was adopted by the Northern Jurisdiction shortly thereafter and the auxiliaries were organized from the wives and other female relatives of the fraters in the consistories across the hemisphere.

At the time of its formation, no State Grand Assembly existed for the Orient of Illinois. Each Assembly was tied at the hip to a Consistory in the respective Orient. However,

Chicago Assembly Holiday Efforts

PHOTO BY LOYAL LADY TARAE PORTER-SIMONS



The Loyal Ladies of Chicago Assembly #4, Order of the Golden Circle, under the leadership of Loyal Lady Floretta Daniels, Loyal Lady Ruler, compiled and prepared toy baskets and delivered them to children across the City of Chicago during the Christmas Holiday Season. This effort capped a successful year of leadership and service for the Assembly which is the home Assembly of the Jr. Past State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler J. Pauline Brown.

State Grand Assemblies did eventually come into existence in the Northern Jurisdiction. The Illinois State Grand Assembly was actually not organized until 57 years after the formation of Chicago Assembly. Hence, the age of Chicago Assembly at 101 years old.

Chicago Assembly continues to stand as a hallmark of the Order of the Golden Circle across the Northern Jurisdiction. One of the oldest in existence, the Assembly has served as the home of several State Grand Loyal Lady Rulers and numerous Loyal Ladies who have made great strides in the Orient and beyond. Congratulations!



Scottish Rite Clarion
Illinois Council of Deliberation
Benevolent Fund
3728 West 83rd Place
Chicago, Illinois 60652



Grand Inspector General Lionel Richie, 33°

The new millennium has seen a great many television stars, musicians and celebrities join the Masonic ranks including Shaquille O'Neil, Jay-Z and several others. Many join as it provides a new method through which charitable efforts can be extended. This is most definitely the case for Brother Lionel Richie.

Richie was initiated into the degrees of Freemasonry in Lewis Adams Lodge #67 of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama. Having received the degrees of the Scottish Rite in the Southern Jurisdiction, he became active in the Rite. For his efforts, not necessarily for his celebrity, he was elevated to the rank of Grand Inspector General by the United Supreme Council, AASR, Southern Jurisdiction in 2017.

Congratulations GIG Richie.

