



Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, PHA—Orient of Illinois

Volume 14 Issue No. 1—Summer 2023

Got Milk?



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The Scottish Rite Clarion Newsletter is Published bi-annually by the Illinois Council of Deliberation Benevolent Fund.

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Sublime Prince Junious Echols, 32°, Sublime Prince Art Williams, 32°, Sublime Prince Tony Scott, 32°, Editorial Assistants

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Melvin Frierson, 33°, Deputy for the Orient of Illinois

Opportunity in Numbers for Illinois

As the 2023 Illinois Council of Deliberation Session is quickly approaching, the Orient of Illinois stands in a strong position as it relates to membership and activity locally and nationally like other Orients under the umbrella of the United Supreme Council for the Northern Jurisdiction. These numbers present an opportunity for the creation of a financial legacy for the Orient if full participation is achieved. Consider the following membership totals for the jurisdiction:

◆ *Sovereign Grand Inspectors General (21)*

ACTIVES (6)

1. Melvin Frierson (Deputy) ^{abcd}
2. Neal Carson
3. Homer Walton ^{ae}
4. Leroy Barnes ^{ae}
5. DePlessie Drew
6. James A. Mitchell ^d

7. J. Herman Gray ^d

8. Milton Jackson

9. William W. Jackson ^d

10. Willie Lawler Jr. ^b

11. Donnie Merritt

12. Elijah Owens

13. John L. Richardson ^a

EMERITI (15) - Alphabetical Order

1. Daryl L. Andrews ^{acde}

2. R.C. Brown ^{de}

3. Charles Burns Jr. ^a

4. Gene Chandler

5. Millard V. Driskell ^b

6. Bretton Frierson

14. James R. Thompson

15. Clarence W. Trotter ^b

a - Appointed USC Officer

b - Past Grand Master (actual/honorary)

c - Elected Grand Officers (current/past)

d - Past Head of a House (actual/honorary)

e - Mason of the Year (current/past)

◆ *Grand Inspectors General (over 200)*

◆ *Sublime Princes (over 500)*

The proceeds from the annual session are designated to support the charitable needs of the Illinois Council of Deliberation:

- ◆ *Educational Donations for Higher Education*
- ◆ *Donations to the charities supported by the Illinois Council of Deliberation Benevolent Fund*
- ◆ *Other charitable endeavors*

Considering the numbers, the Orient of Illinois is in a great position to build a substantial financial legacy. If each member purchased an advertisement in the annual SOUVENIR AD BOOK and each 32nd and 33rd Degree Mason attend the annual session, the charitable arms of the Benevolent Fund could be extended tremendously. Help us to achieve the minimum goal of **\$20,000** by showing up for the Illinois Council of Deliberation session of 2023. We have the numbers. Let's show it.

COMMIT TO BEING COUNTED IN THAT NUMBER!!!



Desk of the Deputy for the Orient of Illinois

Greetings to My Brothers and Sisters

Again it is my pleasure to greet you through this media, I hope that all is well with you and your love ones and dear friends.

In this edition I would like to give you a prescription (message) for a better life. Let us try to live a life with as less stress as possible. For it is really true "WE ARE TOO BLESSED TO BE STRESSED". The message is titled "My Attitude":

I Promise Myself

To be so strong that nothing can disturb my peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person I meet.

To make all my friends feel that there is something worthwhile in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything, and make my optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as I am about my own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful expression at all times and give a smile to every living creature I meet.

To give so much time to improving myself that I have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

To think well of myself and to proclaim this fact to the world, not in loud words, but in great deeds.

To live in the faith that the whole world is on my side, so long as I am true to the best that is in me.

- Christian D. Larson, 1912

MY ATTITUDE.... IS MY LIFE!!!

Fraternally,
Melvin Frierson, 33°
Deputy for the
Orient of Illinois





The United Supreme Council

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation,
Northern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., Inc.

United Supreme Council
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Philadelphia, PA 19146
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Office of the Sovereign Grand Commander

Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, 33°

Honoring the Extraordinary Legacy of Reverend Brother Jesse Jackson, Sr. upon His Retirement as President of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Philadelphia, PA. (July 24, 2023) - Today, Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, the Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc., issued the following statement in honor of Reverend Brother Jesse Jackson, Sr. upon his retirement as president of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition.

It is with respect that we recognize and celebrate the career and profound impact of Reverend Brother Jesse Jackson, Sr. on the occasion of his retirement as the esteemed leader of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition. With unwavering dedication and an unyielding commitment to civil rights, Reverend Jackson has been a driving force in shaping a more just and equitable society for over five decades.

The Rainbow PUSH Coalition is a Chicago-based nonprofit organization formed as a merger of two nonprofit organizations founded by Reverend Jackson; Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) and the National Rainbow Coalition. The Rainbow PUSH Coalition is an organization devoted to empowering African Americans and marginalized communities by addressing issues such as economic empowerment, educational opportunities, and social justice. Under his visionary leadership, The Rainbow PUSH Coalition grew into a force for positive change and touched the lives of people around the world.

Throughout his tenure as the leader of The Rainbow PUSH Coalition, Reverend Jackson spearheaded numerous transformative initiatives. He advocated for fair housing, access to quality education, and economic advancement for underserved communities. His unwavering commitment to voter registration and political engagement paved the way for increased representation of minority voices in the democratic process.

Reverend Jackson's influence transcended national borders. He became a global advocate for human rights and social justice, championing causes that addressed poverty, discrimination, and inequality on an international scale. His leadership in fostering dialogue and understanding across diverse communities has been instrumental in promoting peace and cooperation worldwide.

In 1987, Reverend Jackson was made a Master Mason by Grand Master Senter of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois.

As we recognize Reverend Jackson upon his well-deserved retirement, we celebrate a remarkable career and a life devoted to the betterment of humanity. We express our gratitude for his selfless service and unwavering commitment to justice, hope, and unity.

I, as Sovereign Grand Commander, and our organization will strive to continue the noble work of Reverend Jackson in pursuing a more equitable and compassionate world.

Yours in the Rite,

Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

The Clarion

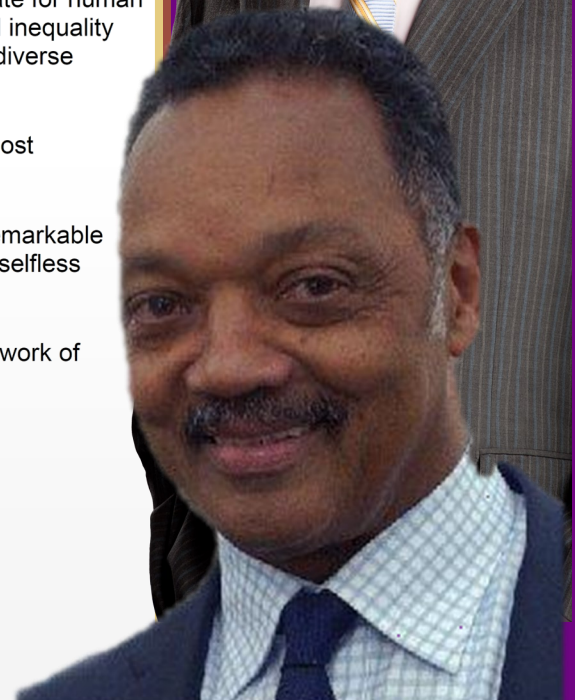


Rainbow PUSH
Coalition Founder

US Presidential
Candidate
1984 & 1988

Harmony Lodge #88
MWPHGL of Illinois

Omega Psi Phi
Fraternity



The United Supreme Council

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry,
Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., Inc.



Membership Reclamation Program

APPLY NOW!

Start Here

Visit the USC Website
at uscnjpha.org.

1

**REINSTATEMENT FEES
WAIVED UNTIL
APRIL 30, 2024**

Resources

Hover Cursor Over "Resources"
tab and scroll down to
"Reclamation."

2

Reclamation

Select "Reclamation" to go
to page and scroll down to
"Reclamation Form" button.

3

Reclamation Form

Select button to open and
complete online form.

4

Submit Form

Select "Send Message"
button to transmit form to
the Reclamation Committee.

5

**A MEMBER WILL
CONTACT YOU**

Scan QR Code to Visit
Reclamation Page on
USC Website



Point of Contact:
Committee Chair: SGIG Garry Tyler
Email: GTyler7879@aol.com

ICOD News, Announcements and Editorials

Secretary of the Illinois Council of Deliberation

Sovereign Grand Inspector General James A. Mitchell, 33°



ICOD (PHA) continues to live up to its commitment to community service and health care awareness initiatives. Each Valley in the Orient participates in a number of community service activities such as, distributing food to the less fortunate, providing school supplies, assisting youth programs, responding to disasters, just to name a few. Our hats off to the Valleys of Western #28, Tyree #64, and Marquette/Joliet

#104 for their exceptional efforts. A number of members across the Orient signed-up to participate in the Illinois Chapter of Alzheimer's Awareness Project. Their participation included presentations, walks, sending out communications, et cetera. The Deputy's Annual information Session held in April 2023 was most impressive and informative. A number of topics were presented and discussed. Since the last printed Clarion, we lost five members from the ICOD (PHA) Family, namely Sovereign Grand Inspector General Warren Gipson (pictured); Grand Inspectors General Sammie Crowder, and Alfred Snoddy; and Sublime Princes Freddie Morris and Almon Cooper. Peace be to their ashes.



Editor of the Scottish Rite Clarion

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Daryl L. Andrews, 33°



Rather than go through the contents of the issue, I'd like to pat a few individuals on the back. Hats off to Sovereign Grand Inspector General **J. Herman Gray**; Grand Inspectors General **Kevin Johnson** of Tyree Consistory #64, **George Barmore** of Balthasar Consistory #92; **Frank Jarvis**, **Eugene Washington**, **Bruce Owens**, **William L. Norman**, and **Kenny R. Askew** of Western Consistory #28; Sublime Princes **Jason Jackson** of North Shore Consistory No. 91 and **H. Victor Payne** of Western Consistory #28. Your contributions are great supplements! The photographers, in particular, provide pools of photos for multiple

Masonic publications. Grand Inspector General David Bonds would be proud.

Salutations also to Sovereign Grand Inspector General **Bretton Frierson** on being elevated to Sovereign Grand Inspector General at the 2023 United Supreme Council Annual Session. The Valley of East St. Louis is proud of your preferment by the United Supreme Council. The Orient of Illinois is one of two where fathers and sons serve as Sovereign Grand Inspectors General, second only to the Orient of Wisconsin with the Sovereign Grand Inspectors General Tharpe. Congratulations and, for those who know your contributions and work ethic, the selection is well deserved!!

Editorial assistance for this edition was provided by Sublime Princes **Junious Echols**, **Art Williams**, and **Tony Scott**. Their assistance is making a difference at multiple levels like Grand Inspector General **Kevin Johnson**. As time continues to move forward, it is sensible for us to evolve for the future. Feel free to help. Just send me an email to get involved.



Divine Inspirations

Sublime Prince Tara DeRamus, 32°



Once you learn to stop letting people control your heart, and let your heart control your inner peace, then you will feel your inner beauty."

Alms Club Donations

Grand Inspector General Tony D. Stafford Sr., 33°

Please make your pledge of \$100.00 to the Alms Club TODAY to assist those who may find themselves in need. Please forward donations made payable to "ICOD BF" to:

- ♦ **GIG Tony D. Stafford Sr.**
1748 East 72nd Street—Unit #1
Chicago, IL 60649

Thanks in Advance for your support.



Mid Year - Illinois Council of Deliberation



The Mid Year Meeting of the Illinois Council of Deliberation noted that the Orient is in great condition. Illustrious Melvin Frierson, Deputy, convened the meeting with prayer and supplication to our Heavenly Father. Attended by seventeen (17) Sovereign Grand Inspectors General and a room filled with Grand Inspectors General and Sublime Princes, the session began.

Although the Angel of Death has been busy in the Orient, the Scottish Rite Masonry continues to excel. All are preparing for the United Supreme Council Session in Denver, Colorado. All were encouraged to purchase ads and contribute to the fundraising efforts that are underway. It was announced that the Orient of Illinois' Jackets would soon be available for pickup via the Commanders of the Rite. The Orient of Illinois will be uniform at the session.

Donations to the Alms Club were also welcomed. Donations go to support Fraters in need. Many a suffering during these times and special attention was placed on the memorandum

of understanding signed with the Alzheimer's Association and thanks given to those who are active in the program. The Commanders of the Rite of Chicago and East St. Louis are participating in walks to fight the disease. The focus on health will also be highlighted at ICOD 2023 in October. CPR/AED training is being sought out with the potential for certification. Contributing in these manners will prepare our members to act.

The names of 50 Year members were also requested for special recognition at ICOD 2023 in October. Members who have been continuously active since 1973 are eligible. All names are to be sent to the Deputy by July 1. Also, Illinois is set to welcome new Grand Inspector Generals in 2023 and 2024 (Milwaukee, WI). Eleven recipients are set for 2023 and seventeen for 2024. The session in 2025 and 2026 will be held in Philadelphia, PA and Detroit, MI.

With all minds clear, the Mid Year Meeting ended just after Noon. See you all in October.





UNITED SUPREME

142ND ANNUAL SESSION



**William R. Stark Class of 2023
ILLINOIS
Grand Inspectors General**



A.A.S.R. of Freemasonry PHA NJ USA INC.

COUNCIL-2023



DENVER, COLORADO



Sovereigns from the Orient of Illinois: John L. Richardson



Sovereign Grand Inspector General John L. Richardson is a retired employee of the U. S. Postal Service and a practicing attorney admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1983. He is a graduate of Glenville High School in Cleveland, Ohio and Cleveland State University, where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He received his Juris Doctorate from Cleveland Marshall College of Law.

John has extensive experience in collective bargaining, contract negotiations and labor law. During his 42 years as an employee of the Postal Service John held positions in Labor Relations at the Regional and local level, negotiating and administrating labor agreements with the three major postal unions and participated in negotiations for a national agreement. As Manager, Human Resources for the Chicago District he was responsible for the offices of Labor Relations, Personnel, Injury Compensation, EEO, Employee Development, Safety and the Medical Unit. Prior to his retirement John worked as an attorney in the

Postal Service Law Department, Chicago Office.

John began his Masonic journey in Cleveland, Ohio on July 21, 1970 when he was initiated as an Entered Apprentice and later passed, and subsequently raised to the sublimed degree of Master Mason in Ecclesiastes Lodge No. 120, Prince Hall Affiliation, Free & Accepted Masons under the leadership of Worshipful Master Charles W. Hales. Upon his promotion to the United States Postal Service Central Regional Headquarters John relocated to Chicago, Illinois where he later demitted to Garden City Lodge #59 where he has the honor of serving as a Past Master. John currently holds the positions of Grand Attorney for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois and its Jurisdiction, a position he has held since being appointed by the late Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Willie B. Evans in 1998.

John received the last and final degree of freemasonry, the 33rd degree, Grand Inspector General, as a member of the Bolden-Fitch Class of 2008. He was reclassified as a Sovereign Grand Inspector General in 2021. He currently serves as a Legal Counsel for the United Supreme Council Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, PHA Northern Jurisdiction, USA, INC., and Orient Vice President, Commanders of the Rite, Orient of Illinois. He is a Past Valley Vice President, Valley of Chicago, Orient of Illinois. His private practice area of concentration is Estate Planning, Family Law, Probate and Contract Law. He has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Chicago Post Office Employees Credit Union, and currently serves on the Board of Directors and Legal Counsel for Gatling's Chapel.

John is an honorably discharged Marine and a Viet Nam veteran. He has one son, Jeremy who is a certified financial advisor. With stellar service at all levels, Sovereign Grand Inspector General Richardson is definitely a Sovereign Grand Inspector General you should know.

A Grand Inspector General You Should Know: George Barmore



George M. Barmore Sr 33° is a loving devoted husband to Brenda King-Barmore, father of 9, stepfather of 1, and grandfather of 13. He started his Masonic journey on September 9, 1995 in Welcome Star Lodge #36 of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois. He served as Worshipful Master of the lodge in 2012 and 2013. He received his Past Master Certificate from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois on April 4, 2014. He currently serves as President of the Past Masters Council of his lodge, and District Deputy Grand Lecturer over Watch City Lodge#131.

Illustrious Barmore also belongs to other Masonic houses. A three time Past Patron of Princess Zorah Chapter #20, Order Eastern Star, he has been inducted into the Holy Royal Arch Masons (HRAM), Royal and Select Masters (RSM) and Knights Templar (KT) as a Companion of Jack E. Steele Chapter #69, HRAM; Companion of Levi L. Rose Council #10, RSM; and a Sir Knight of Levi L. Rose Commandery #70, KT. He is also a Noble of Al-Hamid #222, AEAONMS.

He is an active Scottish Rite Mason at all levels. For

Balthasar Consistory #92, he served as Commander in Chief from 2014 to 2018. He was crowned an Honorary Member (33°) of the United Supreme Council in 2016 as a member of the Dr. Solomon Wallace Class. He has been honored with the Meritorious Service Award for his positive work in the community from the Illinois Council Deliberation in October 2016 and Scottish Rite Mason of the Year in 2018. He continues to serve on the Memorial and Honor Guard teams of the United Supreme Council.

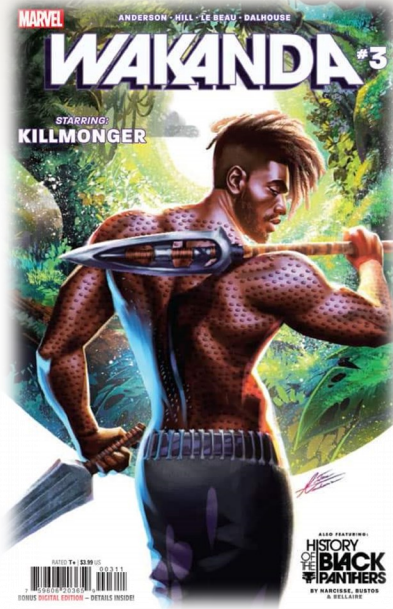
Worshipful Brother Barmore recently received Honorary Membership from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Wisconsin from MWGM Samuel L. Stotts 33° in 2022. For the last 3 years he has served on the Credentials Committee for the MWPHGL of Illinois; several Degree and Burial Teams; Hospitality and Banquet Committees; "Feed the Needy" Programs; St. Johns Day and Americanism Day Programs; and other community outreach organizations through out the Northern Jurisdiction. Illustrious George Barmore is definitely a Grand Inspector General you should know.



Sublime Princes You Should Know: Le Beau Underwood



Sublime Prince LeBeau Underwood, 32^o of Western Consistory #28 is a professional comic book artist/inker with over 25 years of experience within the comic book industry. Former Marvel and Valiant Comics Art Director Don Perlin served as his mentor. He has been fortunate to have gained knowledge from many great professionals in the comic industry.



Underwood has worked professionally for several major publishers including Marvel, DC Comics, Image Comics, Dark Horse Comics, as well as many others. His work has been featured on Disney + on the Heroes Project. He has been a featured guest at the New York Comicon, San Diego Comicon, C2E2 in Chicago, and Philadelphia Comic Con.



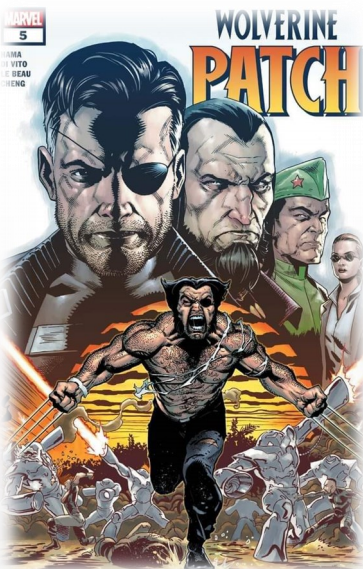
Past projects include Wakanda, Avengers, Daredevil, X-Men, Spider-man and Deadpool, The Incredible Hulk and Wolverine

for Marvel, Injustice, Arrow, Justice League 2000, Hardware, Smallville, Stormwatch, Catwoman, Suicide Squad, Son of Batman, and Harley Quinn for DC Comics, and Stranger Things for Dark Horse Comics.



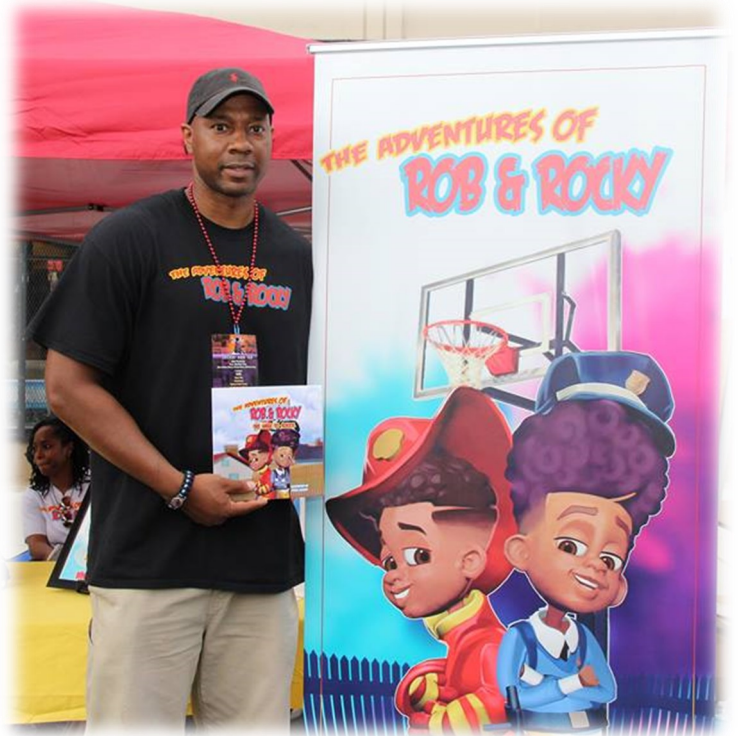
He is a graduate of Austin Community Academy High School and Columbia College of Chicago, IL, with a BA in Commercial Art. He is also an 8 year U.S. Navy veteran, having served as an Operations Specialist 2nd Class Petty Officer. His work has been published in several countries such as Brazil, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, and Africa.

He is currently semi-retired from the industry, but still does several projects when desired. He credits his work to his deceased parents, Mathis and Lela Underwood, and his children; Noelle, Cameron, Lamiyah and Leiyla and his love; Worthy Matron Sis. Ronniesia Branch (Pride of Holy City #150).

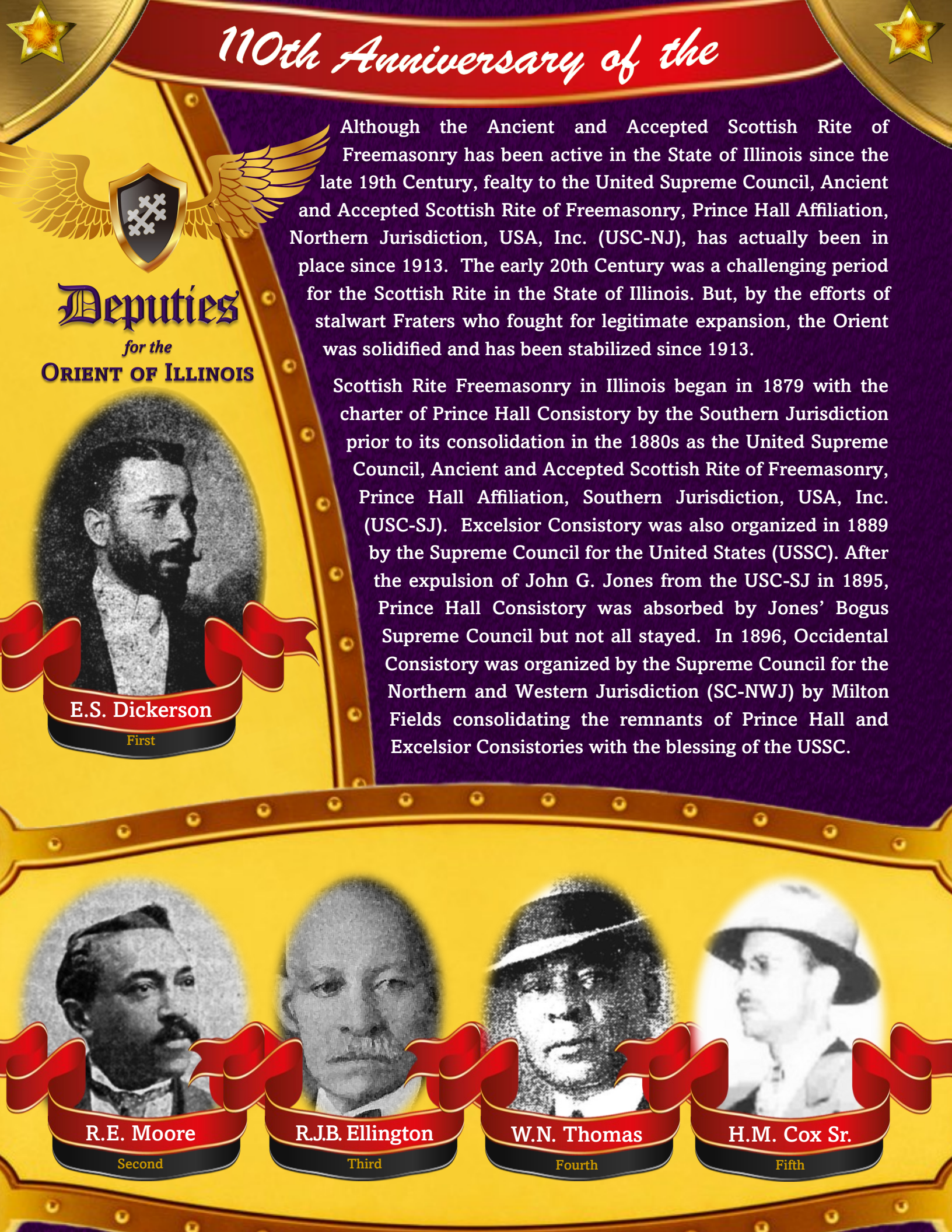


& Robert "Bo" Chaney of the Valleys of Chicago & Rockford

Meet Sublime Prince Robert Chaney, 32°. Congratulations to Sublime Prince Chaney on his fine work in our community. He was able to speak with Mrs. Daub's Kindergarten Class at Ellis Academy School on Rockford's westside. He allowed the students to visit outside on his fire truck, and read with the students in their classroom. He signed his children's books and donated other fun items. He spoke about hard work, and creating a legacy for yourself and family. ALL the children were very engaged and enjoyed his visit. Special thanks to Sublime Prince Wayne Brown, 32° for his support.



110th Anniversary of the



Deputies

for the

ORIENT OF ILLINOIS

Although the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry has been active in the State of Illinois since the late 19th Century, fealty to the United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc. (USC-NJ), has actually been in place since 1913. The early 20th Century was a challenging period for the Scottish Rite in the State of Illinois. But, by the efforts of stalwart Fraters who fought for legitimate expansion, the Orient was solidified and has been stabilized since 1913.

Scottish Rite Freemasonry in Illinois began in 1879 with the charter of Prince Hall Consistory by the Southern Jurisdiction prior to its consolidation in the 1880s as the United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc. (USC-SJ). Excelsior Consistory was also organized in 1889 by the Supreme Council for the United States (USSC). After the expulsion of John G. Jones from the USC-SJ in 1895, Prince Hall Consistory was absorbed by Jones' Bogus Supreme Council but not all stayed. In 1896, Occidental Consistory was organized by the Supreme Council for the Northern and Western Jurisdiction (SC-NWJ) by Milton Fields consolidating the remnants of Prince Hall and Excelsior Consistories with the blessing of the USSC.



E.S. Dickerson

First



R.E. Moore

Second



R.J.B. Ellington

Third



W.N. Thomas

Fourth



H.M. Cox Sr.

Fifth

Illinois Council of Deliberation

While Prince Hall Consistory still operated under Jones at least through 1903, Occidental retained fealty to the SC-NWJ under Fields who had also been in contention with Jones through their Shrine organizations. Yet, in 1912, Occidental engaged in conversations with the USC-NJ resulting in a shift of fealty on January 22, 1913. Occidental was granted #28 on the rolls by Sovereign Grand Commander James F. Rickards. With Illustrious Dr. Egbert S. Dickerson of Cairo, a known associate of Illustrious Rickards in York Rite Circles, appointed as Deputy for the Orient of Illinois, the legitimate body of the Scottish Rite was solidified.

From this basis, expansion of the Scottish Rite in Illinois occurred under the terms of the various Deputies. Several extended the reach of the Orient across the entire geography of the State of Illinois. In addition to the establishment of Consistories, Assemblies of the Order of the Golden Circle were also established to inculcate Loyal Ladies as

auxiliaries to the Consistories. A timeline of their establishment by Deputy is noted below:

Dr. Egbert S. Dickerson (1913-14)

- 1913—Occidental Consistory #28 (Chicago)

Richard E. Moore (1914-22)

- 1916—Chicago Assembly #4
- 1917—"Occidental" changed to "Western"
- 1921—Menelik #49 (Springfield)
- 1921—Hiram #51 (Cairo)

Dr. Walter N. Thomas (1929-40)

- 1931—Tyree Consistory #64 (East St. Louis)

Vernon B. Williams Jr. (1968-74, 78-87)

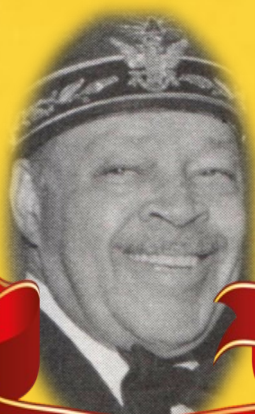
- 1969—Tri-Cities Consistory #82 (Rock Island)
- 1973—North Shore Consistory #91 (Waukegan)
- 1973—Illinois State Grand Assembly
- 1974—Balthasar Consistory #92 (Rockford)
- 1979—Balthasar Assembly #69
- 1983—Marquette-Joliet Consistory #104 (Joliet)
- 1983—Marquette Assembly #87

(more on the next page)



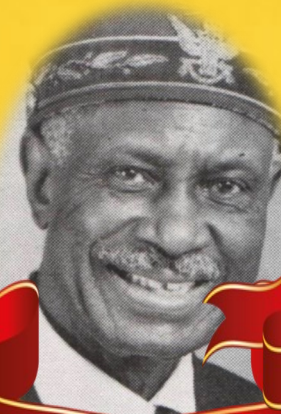
F.M. Summers

Sixth



V.B. Williams Jr.

Seventh & Ninth



L.H. Morris

Eighth



E.W. Helm

Tenth

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite

Through all of the challenges, the Scottish Rite survives to this date in good order. Stellar leadership is a source for this legacy along with loyal men and women who continue to contribute to its success. 110 years later, the Orient still stands strong.



Purchase your copy today to read the full story on each Deputy for the Orient of Illinois!!!

Visit www.ICODPHA.org Today

- 
1. **Dr. Egbert S. Dickerson**
1913-1914
 2. **Richard E. Moore**
1914-1922
 3. **Robert J.B. Ellington**
1923-1929
 4. **Dr. Walter N. Thomas**
1929-1940
 5. **Hannibal M. Cox Sr.**
1940-1942
 6. **Frank M. Summers**
1942-1968
 7. **Vernon B. Williams Jr.**
1968-1974
 8. **Levi H. Morris**
1974-1978
 9. **Vernon B. Williams Jr.**
1978-1987
 10. **Eddie Winifred "Doc" Helm**
1987-1992
 11. **Rev. Dr. Charles J. Stewart**
1992-1995
 12. **James Gayles**
1995-2000
 13. **Brian L. Abrams Sr.**
2000-2008
 14. **Melvin Frierson**
2008-Present



C.J. Stewart

Eleventh



J. Gayles

Twelfth



B.L. Abrams Sr.

Thirteenth



M. Frierson

Fourteenth

THE IMPACT OF ALZHEIMER'S ON THE WORKPLACE



Over **11 million**

Americans provide unpaid care for people living with Alzheimer's or other dementias.

6 in 10 caregivers were employed in the past year.

These individuals worked an average of

35 hours per week while caregiving.



18% of caregivers went from full-time to part-time or cut back hours.



Nine percent of caregivers gave up working entirely.

57% OF EMPLOYED

CAREGIVERS HAD TO GO IN TO WORK LATE, LEAVE EARLY OR TAKE TIME OFF DUE TO CAREGIVING DEMANDS.



Six percent retired early.



Approximately **one-quarter** of caregivers are in the "sandwich generation" — meaning they care for an aging parent and children under 18.

83% OF CARE AT HOME IS PROVIDED BY FAMILY MEMBERS, FRIENDS OR OTHER UNPAID CAREGIVERS.



Approximately two-thirds of dementia caregivers are **Women**, a role which often competes with employment and other responsibilities.

alzheimer's  association®

Visit alz.org for caregiver support, information and resources.

Sources: Alzheimer's Association 2021 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures Research Report: Dementia Caregiving in the U.S.

**December
2023**



**Gene
Chandler AKA
THE DUKE OF EARL**

**PRESIDENTIAL
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARDS**
Congratulations

DR. VERNA CADDIE
CERTIFIED PRESENTER

Waukegan: Dr. Brooks Street Renaming

On Friday, March 31, 2023, the city of North Chicago, IL hosted an honorary street naming ceremony to add Grand Inspector General (GIG), Dr. Wadell Brooks, Sr. of North Shore Consistory #91 at the corners of Sherman Ave. and Argonne Drive. For the past several years, Sherman Ave. carried the name of “Honorary Dr. Daisy Brooks Drive”, named after the widow of GIG Brooks, for her countless years of immeasurable service to the community. Sister Daisy Brooks contracted and developed numerous childcare and resource centers in the city of North Chicago.

GIG Brooks was born in Lexington, Mississippi. He was the FIRST black student to graduate from East St. Louis Senior High School in East St. Louis, IL. Community activities had always played a major role in GIG Brooks' life. He initiated and hosted “NAACP Focus”, a weekly radio talk show on WKRS-AM 1220 that aired every Sunday morning.

GIG Brooks also hosted a weekly local Comcast Community Access talk show; “Community Forum”, in which several members of North Shore Consistory #91 and other Masonic affiliations within the Orient of Illinois were invited as guests. GIG Brooks ensured that his viewing and listening audiences were aware of Prince Hall Masons and their concordant bodies. Dr. Wadell Brooks also received the “Best of Lake County First Production by a Producer” award for his shows.

Grand Inspector General Brooks was a faithful and steadfast member of the North Shore Masonic PHamily. He served as Past Master of Rufus Mitchell Lodge #107 and Past Patron of Emblem Chapter #140 of Waukegan, IL. In 1988, his years of dedication and continued community involvement landed him to receive the bestowed honor of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois Mason of the year, as well as, receiving is 33rd and final degree of Masonry.

“The Dr.’s Brooks have lived lives of dedicated service and they have lived their values! We all know many people of faith, but it is an everyday challenge to put faith into action. Dr. Daisy and Dr. Wadell Brooks, Sr., put faith into action every single day without fail, and that is something to honor, that is something to celebrate.” - Yolanda & Cassandra Brooks

Submitted by Sublime Prince Jason Jackson, 32°



East St. Louis

Tyree at Trinity United Methodist Church

Grand Inspector General Kevin E. Johnson, 33°



Members of Tyree Consistory #64, Valley of East St. Louis and Southern Cross Lodge #112 have established a relationship with Trinity United Method Church of East St. Louis, Illinois as a means to aid the community in which its members live. Regularly, they contribute food and other items to the church's mission to provide sustenance for citizens in need in the East St. Louis and surrounding communities. The latest round of donations and service was presented in April.

The Fraters of Tyree also take on the responsibilities of prepping food for distribution to the community and delivering packages across the city and beyond. The delivery aspect is a bonus because it serves as a clear example of the type of service that true Masons perform. Furthermore, the donations in April followed the donations to the church from earlier in the year. All in all, these continual donations help to keep the coffers of the church ready for service.



Often times, acts of charity are performed during the Holiday Season when it appears that the need for assistance is higher than the norm. However, the needs do not arise simply on the Holidays. They, unfortunately are shared year-round which echoes the importance for Masons to do what Masons are supposed to do. The partnership between the Fraters and Brethren with Trinity reaffirms their commitment to year-round support to meet the daily needs of the community.

Trinity United Methodist Church of East St. Louis is located at 1411 Missouri Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois. The church has been a cornerstone of faith and service in the community for decades. It is currently under the pastoral leadership of Pastor LaRon Stover who also serves as a Chaplain in the Veterans Administration St. Louis Healthcare System. For more information on the church and its missions, visit www.trinityesl.org.





Chicago

COR at St. Ethelreda School

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General Daryl Andrews, 33°,
Grand Inspector General Frank Jarvis, 33°
and Sublime Prince Tara G. DeRamus, 32°*

Got Milk? The Commanders of the Rite of the Valley of Chicago under the leadership of Grand Inspector General Frank Jarvis has certainly provided a timely response to this question.

In February, the Commanders of the Rite collaborated with Highland Community Bank and the Honorable Derek Curtis, 18th Ward Alderman, to deliver milk and cereal to the students at St. Ethelreda Catholic School located in Chicago's Auburn Gresham Community. This effort was an endeavor to promote healthy and send a message to the principal, Dr. Denise Spells, and the youth that they have a friend in the Scottish Rite. The school has an enrollment of hundreds of youth and NONE left without receiving at least one gallon of milk and a box of cereal.

Healthy eating is an ideal that needs to be stressed in all

communities and for all ages. Breakfast, in particular, is a most important meal because it actually does what the term suggests—breaks a fast. Consider that when one is asleep, that his body is actually in a fasting state. There is no eating for a specific period of time. So, the first meal eaten when he awakes is actually breaking the fasting period that began during the hours of sleep. As such, when one awakes, the body tends to crave some form of nourishment to satisfy the hunger that built up during the fasting period or sleep.

Breakfast, therefore, is not just a noun but also a verb. Breaking the fast means eating and/or drinking some form of nourishment to satisfy the morning hunger. It is this notion that suggests that breakfast, the noun, really is the most important meal of the day and it is incumbent upon the families of today to ensure that our youth have access to that meal so that they may properly adjust to the start of the day.

Salutations to the Commanders of the Rite of the Valley of Chicago for being an advocate of this type of support. The youth of St. Ethelreda now know the importance of breakfast.





Eagle's Club Fishing Outing

**Grand Inspector General
Kenny R. Askew, 33^o**

The Eagle's Club of Western Consistory #28 held its 4th Annual Fishing Excursion on June 4, 2022 at LaSalle Lake Fish and Wildlife located at 2651 N. 21st Rd, Marseilles, IL. The event was well attended by individuals from various communities and members of Western Consistory, family, and friends estimated 65-90 in attendance. We had kids out that participated from groups like "Envision Unlimited" and "Mentor Teacher Brother, Inc." Henry's bait shop provided us with fishing poles to lend to patrons who wanted to enjoy the sport but did not have the equipment. Individuals were also on hand to assist those who were fishing for the first time or wanted to learn how to fish. We raffled off 10 prizes like (adult and kid fishing poles, tackle box, fishing basket, etc.) that were donated by Fraters to the event.

The 2022 fishing outing took in total revenues and donations of

\$2,517.83, an increase of 78% over 2019 and a 167% increase from the start of the program. This event has been one of the fastest growing and most profitable programs for the Consistory. 2022 Net revenues from the event were \$2,380. This fishing event was 95% all profit, a 5% decrease in expenses. The goal of the fishing excursion is to expand the participation of this event to other Consistories in the Orient of Illinois in an effort to enhance relationships and Brotherhood throughout the Orient.

Fishing Prizes:

1. \$50.00 for biggest fish went to Leroy Lloyd (Group, Mentor Teacher Brother, Inc.)
2. Trophy for most fish went to John Thompson.
3. \$25.00 for the biggest fish in the Kid's Division went to Zaire Banton (Group, Mentor Teacher Brother, Inc.).

Special thanks to the following Businesses, individuals, and Fraters for their continued and/or generous donations:

\$400.00 Special Donation:

- Marty Ken Ham

\$100.00 plus Business Donations:

- Boaz Carpentry, Inc. (PM Jerry Cotton)
- B Win Management, LLC (S.P. Bobby Winton)
- Henry's Bait & Tackle (25 Rods & Reels, combos and tackle boxes for raffles)
- Bright's Concession Stand, LLC (S.P. Calvin Bright)
- BGME Enterprises, LLC (S.P. Kenny R. Askew)

\$100.00 plus Fraters' Donations:

- GIG Timothy Davis, Commander In Chief
- S.P. Mariano Lopez
- S.P. Bradley R. Wallace
- S.P. Marvin Randolph

Special Thanks for Donations:

- House of Bing (4th Year)
- S.P. Calvin Bright who provided free Hot Dogs, chips, and drinks to everyone.

We would like to thank all the Fraters who supported this great cause; the committee truly appreciates your support, and everyone had a great time. As always we look forward to increased participation from the members of Western Consistory #28 and other Consistories in the coming year.

Man Amongst Men Banquet

Photos from SGIG Milton Jackson, GIG Kevin Ellis, GIG Kenny R. Askew

Western Consistory #28 hosted its Man Amongst Banquet on Saturday, July 13, 2023 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Alsip honoring two distinguished gentlemen namely Dr. Willis L. Lonzer, III and Sublime Prince Fredric D. Spears.

Dr. Lonzer served as the General President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated leading the organization to unprecedented heights. He received a distinct honor afforded only to a distinct few at the United Supreme Council Session in Denver, Colorado where he was elevated to the 33rd and last Degree of Freemasonry by Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore due to his outstanding civic efforts through Alpha Phi Alpha at the international level. He is poised to lead the National Panhellenic Council this year which is a conference incorporating all "Divine Nine" fraternal organizations.

Sublime Prince Spears is the quintessential Scottish Rite Sublime Prince in the Valley of Chicago. His charitable labors are done without the need for fanfare or applause as he freely gives his talents and efforts to improve the fraternity. From food drives to aiding the homeless, the labors that we see are only the tip of his iceberg of service. A natural leader, he inspires others by his works. These qualities make him a prime example that should be emulated by all.

Salutations to the Men Amongst Men of Western Consistory #28!!!

Western Consistory #28
Man amongst Men Banquet

Honoring

Civic Leader
Dr. Willis L. Lonzer III
General President
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

Man Amongst Men Honoree
SP. Fredric D. Spears 32nd
Western Consistory #28

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL
CHICAGO - ALSIP
JULY 15, 2023 6PM-11PM
5000 W 127TH ST, ALSIP, IL 60803

DONATION \$80
TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASE ONLINE AT
[HTTPS://MAM.DIGITIX.ONLINE/](https://mam.digitix.online/)
A \$6.50 CONVENIENCE FEE WILL BE APPLIED TO ONLINE PURCHASES

FOR INFORMATION
EMAIL QUESTIONS TO WESTERNMAN8@GMAIL.COM

SGIG, Leroy C. Barnes, 33rd - General Chairman
GIG, Michael D. Ramey Sr., 33rd - Ticket Chairman
SP, Arthur Williams III, 32nd - Souvenir Book Chairman

SGIG, Melvin Frierson, 33rd
Deputy for the Orient of Illinois

GIG, Timothy R. Davis, 33rd CIC
Western Consistory #28

M.W. Bro. Roland C. Simon, 33rd, Grand Master



Norman's Nook



Illinois Council of Deliberation 2003

The 2003 annual session of the Illinois Council of Deliberation, twenty years ago, represented the third Council for which Sovereign Grand Inspector General Brian L. Abrams Sr. oversaw in his capacity as Deputy for the Orient of Illinois. At this session, several were honored for their tremendous service on behalf of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite at both the local and national levels. Although several have gone on to glory, they are pictured here to showcase honorees whose works continue to stand the test of time. They include Sovereign Grand Inspectors General Neal Carson and Charles J. Stewart; Most Worshipful Brother James Gavin, 33^o; Sovereign Grand Inspectors General Abrams, Charles B. Taylor and Melvin Frierson; and Grand Inspector General Robert DeCuir on the first row. The second row includes several who would later be elevated to the Active and Emeritus ranks of the United Supreme Council in subsequent years. Among them are Grand Inspectors General James A. Mitchell (now Active), Charles Carter (Emeritus/deceased), Warren Gipson (Emeritus/deceased), and Magnus Burney (Emeritus/deceased) standing on the second row from left to right. Grand Inspectors General Robert Weems, William Redmond, and Ronald Boone complete the second row. Sovereign Grand Inspectors General Mitchell, Carson and Frierson as well as Grand Inspectors General Weems and Redmond continue to carry the torch for the Scottish Rite in the Orient of Illinois.

While having been elevated to the 33rd Degree was most definitely a signal honor for each of these Frates, their individual and collective works speak for themselves. To attempt to quantify them all in a short space would certainly be a dis-service. However, they have all been teachers and leaders either locally or nationally. They have all built bridges upon which many of us, here today, cross regularly to meet the needs of the Orient or contribute at the national level. For their sacrifices, Norman's Nook thanks them for their service. For it is on their backs that the Orient of Illinois stands tall today and continues to excel in the Scottish Rite.



What's the PACT Act and how will it affect my VA benefits?

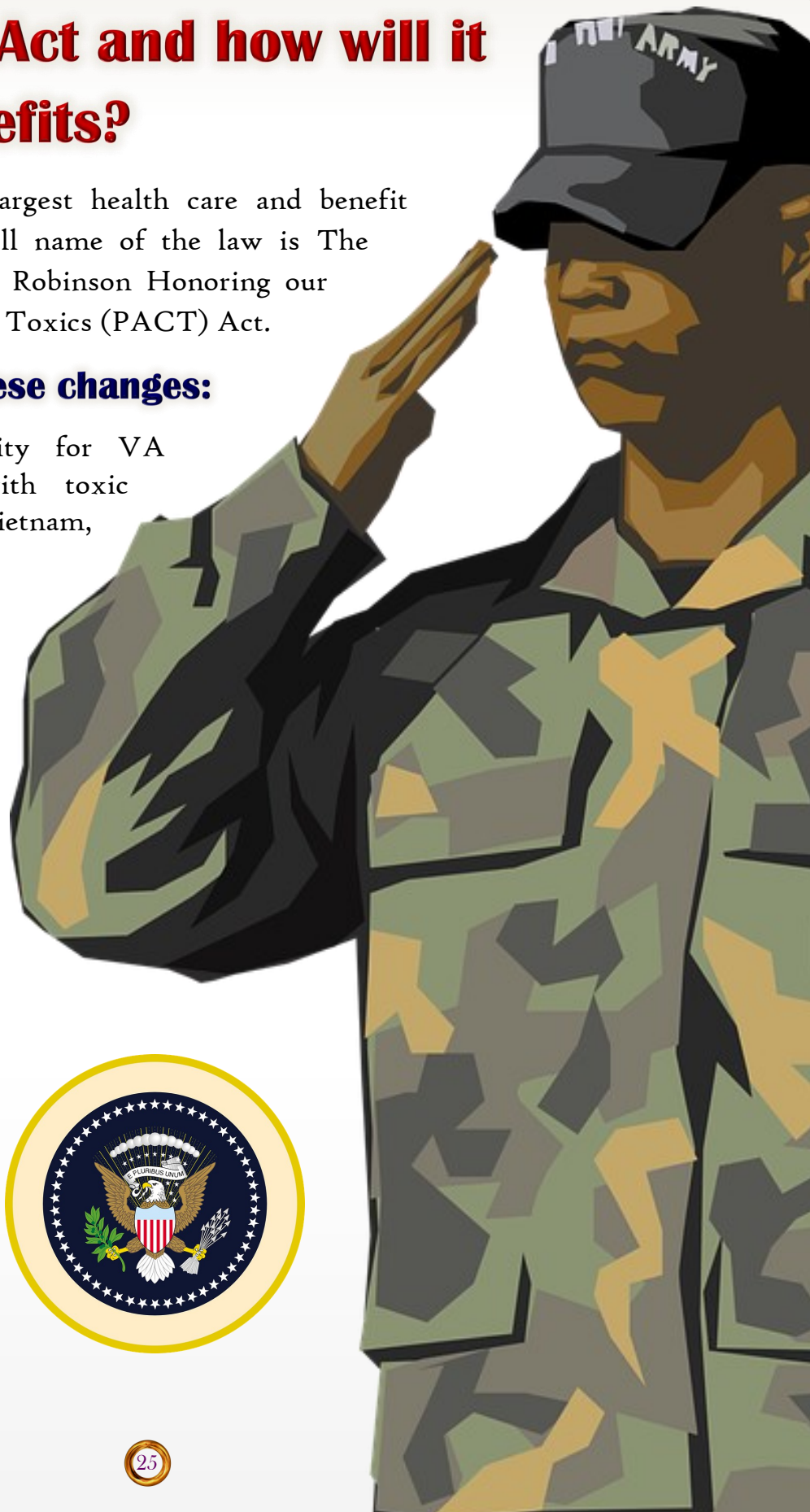
The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits.

(<https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits>)



OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY FOR THE ORIENT OF ILLINOIS
MELVIN FRIERSON, 33°
1819 NORTH 42ND STREET
EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS 62204

REGISTRATION

Advance registration for the 106th Illinois Council of Deliberation's Annual Session is \$110.00 for ALL REGISTRANTS. The deadline for advance registration is October 12, 2023. Registration on site will be \$125.00. Extra banquet tickets are \$75.00 each.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION SHOULD BE MAILED TO:

SGIG Leroy Barnes, 33°
18105 S. Sligo Way
Country Club Hill, Illinois 60478

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE #: _____ or EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

CONSISTORY OR ASSEMBLY (CIRCLE ONE) NAME: _____ NO.: _____

(CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MEALS BELOW)

BEEF _____ CHICKEN _____ VEGGIE _____

Please indicate on your registration form your choice of beef, chicken or veggie for your banquet meal. If you register on Saturday, October 21, 2023, the only available choice for your meal will be beef.

Melvin Frierson, 33°

Melvin Frierson

Deputy for the Orient of Illinois (PHA)

Attest:

James A. Mitchell, 33°
Secretary for the Orient of Illinois (PHA)

ILLINOIS COUNCIL OF DELIBERATION
ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY
PRINCE HALL AFFILIATION – NORTHERN JURISDICTION, U.S.A., INC

S.G.I.G Melvin Frierson, 33°
Deputy for the Orient of Illinois
1819 North 42nd Street
East St. Louis, Illinois 62240

(618) 271-9740
Fax (618) 271-6456
mfrierson34@aol.com

SUBJECT: 2023 SOUVENIR JOURNAL FOR THE 106TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE ILLINOIS COUNCIL OF DELIBERATION (PHA)

TO: All Sovereign Grand Inspectors General, Grand Inspectors General, Sublime Princes, Grand Loyal Lady Ruler, Past Grand Loyal Lady Rulers, Loyal Ladies, and Friends

The Illinois Council of Deliberation (PHA), Orient of Illinois, will host its 106th Annual Session in Springfield, Illinois, October 19th – 22nd, 2023. We are looking forward to this very special event and we want to properly document the occasion by publishing a Souvenir Journal. Thus, we are soliciting your support and participation by purchasing an AD. We are also making a special plea to each Consistory, Assembly, and other Prince Hall Masonic Bodies to purchase an AD.

THE ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR ALL ADs: October 5, 2023

Full Page AD with Photo \$60.00

Front, Back, and Inside Covers \$125.00

Please enter my/our Subscription for a full page AD ___ or cover page ___ in the Souvenir Journal

Subscriber's Name/Title _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Contact telephone number and/or email address _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____. Please note, we have a standard format for all Ads. Photos must be good quality, glossy black & white or color. Please, no photos printed from home printers or cell phones. If you request a return of your photo, please include a self-addressed stamp envelope. Submit document(s) in "word" not in "PDF" form. We strongly encourage you to submit your ADs via email to: icod.info2019@gmail.com

Make Checks or Money Order (NO Cash) Payable To: Illinois Council of Deliberation (PHA)

MAIL TO: James A. Mitchell

Phone #: 773-285-9932

4800 S. Chicago Beach Drive

Unit 609 S

Chicago, Illinois 60615

Fraternally,

Melvin Frierson

Melvin Frierson, 33

Deputy for the Orient of Illinois



3728 West 83rd Place
Chicago, Illinois 60652

Rockford

Special Olympics 2023

Grand Inspector General George Barmore, 33°



Fraters of Balthasar Consistory #92 and Brothers of Welcome Star Lodge #36 collectively volunteered for the Special Olympics May 13, 2023 for one of their community outreach programs. Senior Warden Brother Craig Stallings(#36) and GIG George M. Barmore Sr. 33°, SP Richard Aldridge 32°, SP Gene Houston 32° and SP Ashley D. Bernard 32° were present at the event. Various roles were performed at the event to aid in the smooth execution of all required activities of the 2023 Spring Games.

Carbondale

Black Men's Health

Grand Inspector General George Barmore, 33°

On February 18, 2023, members of Hiram #51 participated in the Black Men's Health Conference "Focusing on Your Wellness" at the Carbondale Civic Center in Carbondale, Il. Various Vendors present at the event were the Healthy Southern Illinois Delta Network, Diabetes Today Resource Team, Jackson County Health department, NAACP Community Health Workers, Community Health and Emergency Services, Equip for Equality, Elder Rights Project, Alzheimer's Association, SIU Nursing Students, NARCAN Education, SIU Dental Hygiene, Shawnee Health, Veteran's Affairs, Centerstone, POA and Wills, and Molina. Pictured in the photo from Left to Right SP Antwan Lester, SP Dr. Randy Burnside, SP Darius Wilson, Bro. Dr. Don Arnold, CIC Arnold Ross.

