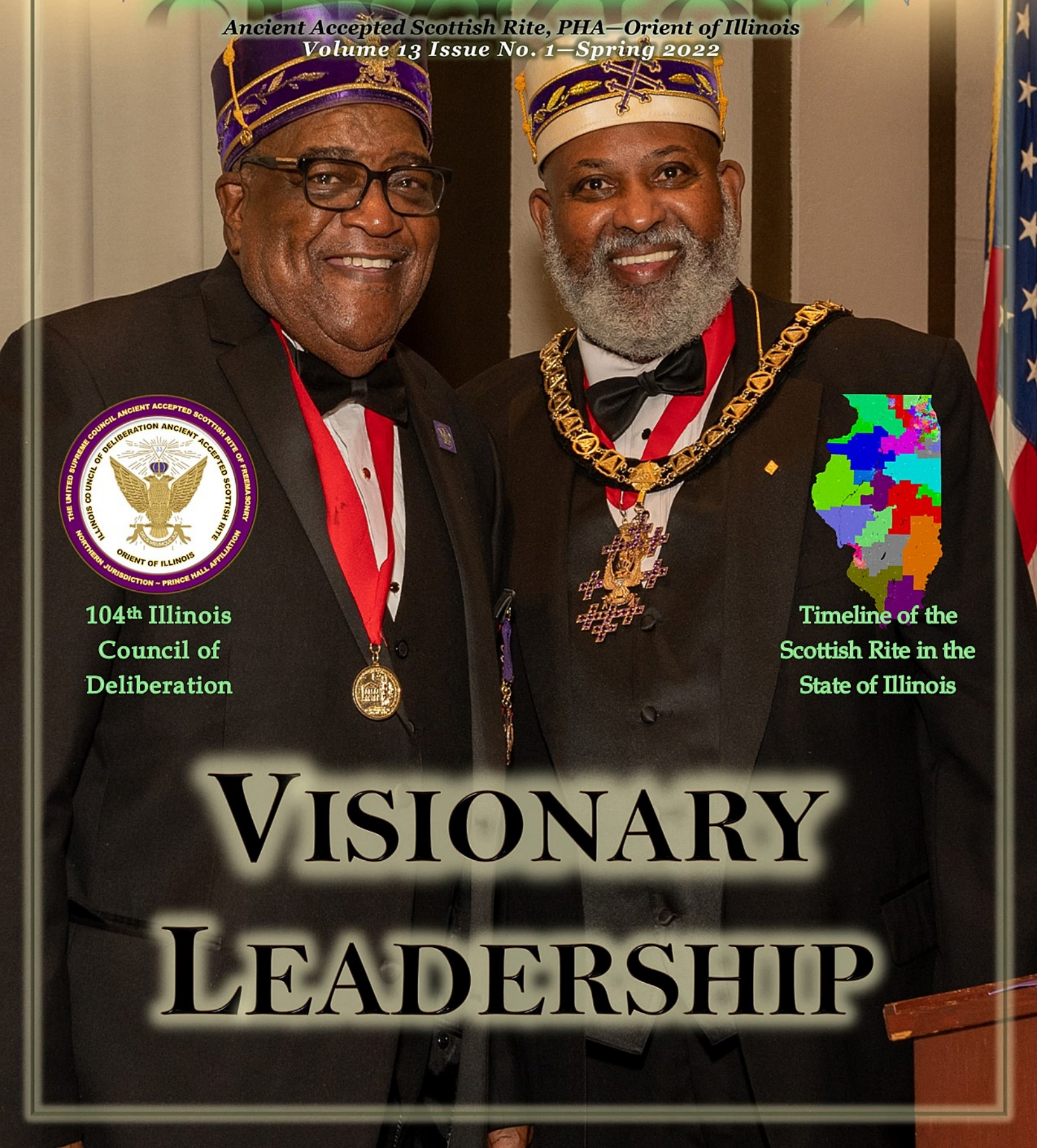




The Scottish Rite Clarion

# CLARION

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, PHA—Orient of Illinois  
Volume 13 Issue No. 1—Spring 2022



104<sup>th</sup> Illinois  
Council of  
Deliberation



Timeline of the  
Scottish Rite in the  
State of Illinois

# VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

# Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness

## KNOW THE 10 SIGNS

The month of June marked Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month in which many joined the Alzheimer's Association to help raise awareness of this devastating disease. You can start by learning and sharing the 10 warning signs of Alzheimer's disease.

It may be hard to know the difference between age-related changes and the first signs of Alzheimer's. Some people may recognize changes in themselves before anyone else notices. Other times, friends and family will be the first to observe changes in memory, behavior or abilities. To help identify problems early, the Alzheimer's Association has created a list of warning signs for Alzheimer's and other dementias. Individuals may experience one or more of these in different degrees:

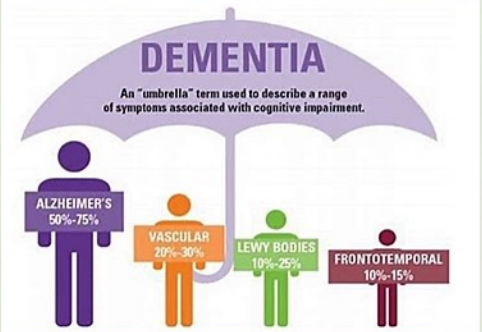
1. MEMORY LOSS THAT DISRUPTS DAILY LIFE.
2. CHALLENGES IN PLANNING OR SOLVING PROBLEMS.
3. DIFFICULTY COMPLETING FAMILIAR TASKS AT HOME, AT WORK OR AT LEISURE.

4. CONFUSION WITH TIME OR PLACE.
5. TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING VISUAL IMAGES AND SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS.
6. NEW PROBLEMS WITH WORDS IN SPEAKING OR WRITING.
7. MISPLACING THINGS AND LOSING THE ABILITY TO RETRACE STEPS.
8. DECREASED OR POOR JUDGMENT.
9. WITHDRAWAL FROM WORK OR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.
10. CHANGES IN MOOD AND PERSONALITY.

If you or someone you care about is experiencing any of these signs, please see a doctor to find the cause. Early diagnosis gives you a chance to seek treatment and plan for your future.

To learn more about warning signs, visit [alz.org/10signs](http://alz.org/10signs) or call the Alzheimer's Association free 24/7 Helpline at:

**1-800-272-3900**  
(TTY:866.403.3073).



### ALZHEIMER'S & BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH

**1 IN 3**  
seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia

**ALZHEIMER'S KILLS MORE THAN**  
breast & prostate cancer  
**COMBINED**

**ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IS THE 6TH LEADING CAUSE**  
of death in the united states

**Dementia affects more women as compared to men.**

**EVERY 65 SECONDS**  
someone in the United States develops the disease

Just like humans, older dogs & cats are also at risk of developing dementia

Recent estimates indicate that Alzheimer's Disease may rank third, behind heart disease and cancer, as a leading cause of death for older people in the US

1. Heart Disease
2. Cancer
3. Alzheimer's

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# Deputy for the Orient of Illinois

## GREETINGS TO MY DEAR FRATERS AND LOYAL LADIES:

I pray that your holidays were everything you wished them to be and I hope that you gave credit, thanks and praise to our GOD.

The past three years have not been too easy on many of us, we have ourselves experienced the wrath of the Covid Virus and several forms, yet grace and mercy have brought us through. I cannot over stress the necessity of getting vaccinated and getting the booster. We are approaching one million deaths in the United States alone. Get testing on a frequent basis. To those of you who have suffered the loss of a family member, love one or friend due to this dreadful pandemic or by other means, we extend to you our heartfelt sorrow. To those of you who were victims of this virus and other forms of illness we pray for your full recovery.



You can still purchase a **Lifetime Membership** in the United Supreme Council and you can still participate in the **Paver Project** by purchasing a brick that will be perpetually installed at the Cathedral in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania identifying you as a Prince Hall Scottish Rite Mason or Loyal lady.

I am happy to report that the ALMS Club is up and running. I thank each of you for your participation and donations, special thanks to GIG Tony Stafford, 33° and Loyal Lady Krystle Stafford for their untiring and dedicated work. **Please keep the donations coming.**

Again, I leave you with what I hope are words of encouragement.

*"A well known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20.00 bill. In the room of 200, he asked who would like to have the twenty dollar bill. Hands started going up and he said I am going to give this money to one of you, but first, let me do this. He proceeded to crumple the bill up and he then asked who still wants it? Still the hands were up in the air. We he replied, what if I do this? He dropped it and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now crumpled and dirty, now, who still wants it? Still hands went up into the air.*

*My friends, he said, you all have learned a valuable lesson, no matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth twenty dollars. Many times in our lives we are dropped, crumpled and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way we feel that we are worthless, but no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value, dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to those who love you. **The worth of our lives comes not in what we do, or who we know, but by who we are. YOU ARE SPECIAL.**" - Author unknown*

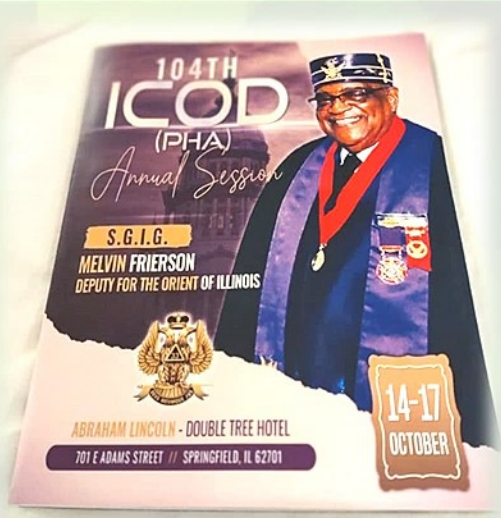
Congratulations to the Past State Grand Loyal Lady Rulers and Past State Grand Secretary on receiving the first Illinois Council of Deliberation Golden Dove Award.

Congratulations to those of you who have been elected to preside over your respective Scottish Rite Body for the year 2022. I wish you the best of success, if I can be of assistance to you; please feel free to contact me.

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU

Fraternally,  
just another brother  
*Melvin Frierson, 33°*  
Deputy for Illinois

# PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 104<sup>TH</sup>



Western Consistory #28 opened the 104th ICOD. The Deputy received the Heads of York Rite Houses and Most Worshipful Brother Roland Simon.



The ICOD was blessed with a presentation from the Alzheimer's Association of Illinois. A wealth of knowledge was presented and absorbed by all.

## Special Salute to Married Couples in the Illinois Council of



The Woolridges



The Jacksons



The Haywoods



The Princes

# ILLINOIS COUNCIL OF DELIBERATION



The SGIGs were escorted into the morning session after which a visitation was made to the OGC by the Deputy greeting the new SGLLR Lois Whitaker.



The ICOD banquet was well attended by Fraters and Loyal Ladies. Congratulations to all award recipients and the members of the new Class of 2021.

## Deliberation and Illinois State Grand Assembly (Part 1)



The Staffords



The Harbisons



The Haywoods



The Daniels



The McCoachs

## Meet the New State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler of the Illinois State Grand Assembly

*Loyal Lady Lois Whitaker—Rock Island, Illinois*

The Illinois State Grand Assembly is the auxiliary to the Illinois Council of Deliberation. While Assemblies have been active in the Orient of Illinois since the 1910s, the Illinois State Grand Assembly has been active since the 1970s. The Loyal Ladies of the Order of the Golden Circle Assemblies are some of the most prominent citizens in the Valleys or cities in which Consistories and Assemblies reside. As such, like these ladies are not only loyal and royal but also regal and demure serving as the quintessential examples of mates to the Scottish Rite. At the 2021 Annual Session of the Illinois State Grand Assembly, Loyal Lady Lois Whitaker of Rock Island, Illinois was selected to lead the organization for the ensuing years. With faith as her guide and valuable leadership experiences from life and other affiliated organizations, she and the State Grand Assembly are positioned for long term growth and success.



### Norman's Nook: *From the Library of William L. Norman*



*This photo is submitted in memory of the widow of the late Deputy for the Orient of Illinois, James Gayles of Menelik Consistory #49. She is pictured with the late Brian L. Abrams Sr. and shortly after the passing of Ill. Gayles at the Illinois Council of Deliberation Session in the early 2000s.*

## Secretary of the Illinois Council of Deliberation

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General James A. Mitchell, 33°*

The 104th (2021) Annual Grand Session of the Illinois Council of Deliberation (PHA) held in Springfield, IL was well attended, in spite of COVID-19. At said Session, the Council hosted a record number of attendees, special guest included.

Among the scheduled activities were: 1) Health Care Forum on Alzheimer's disease. 2) Presentation of the "Prince Hall" Degree. 3) "Service Awards" issued to the Loyal Ladies of the Golden Circle. 4) Eleven candidates for the 33rd and last degree was announced. 5) Fourteen MSA's were given, and 6) Several Achievement Awards were presented (See photo highlights on the next page). Continue to support Deputy Frierson's initiatives- Alms Club, Educational Project, Community Services, and ICOD Benevolent Fund.



## Editor of the Scottish Rite Clarion

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General Daryl L. Andrews, 33°*

It is funny how fast time flies! The number 13 represents a new beginning. As I approach my 13<sup>th</sup> year as editor of the Clarion, I must give a word of thanks to the regular contributors to the publication over the years. Thanks to Ill. Melvin Frierson, Deputy; Ill. James A. Mitchell, Grand Secretary; and ALL of the photographers from across the Orient including Ill. David Bonds, Bruce Owens, H. Victor Payne, Damon P. Anderson Sr., Eugene Washington, Bernard Brown and others. There have been several regular contributors who have helped to shed light. Norman's Nook by Ill. William L. Norman has showcased historical photos for over a decade. Divine Inspirations by **SUBLIME PRINCE** Tara DeRamus has helped to shift our focus to God's divine plans. Veterans information by Ill. Major Lacy has helped to ensure that our veterans are covered. "Something to Think About" by Ill. DePlessie Drew has always placed nuggets on our minds. Thank you for your articles and your help in showcasing the Orient of Illinois. In the words of the famous Stan Lee, "Excelsior!"



## Alms Club Donations

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



Please make your pledge to the Alms Club TODAY to assist those who may find themselves in need. Each Frater and Loyal Lady are being asked to contribute a \$100 pledge for the cause through one of the following avenues:

- ◆ US Mail: *GIG Tony D. Stafford Sr.  
or LL Krystle T. Owens  
6322 S. Troy St., Apt 2A  
Chicago, IL 60629*
- ◆ Zelle: (312) 714-8136

Thanks in Advance for all of your support.

## Divine Inspirations

*Sublime Prince Tara DeRamus, 32°*

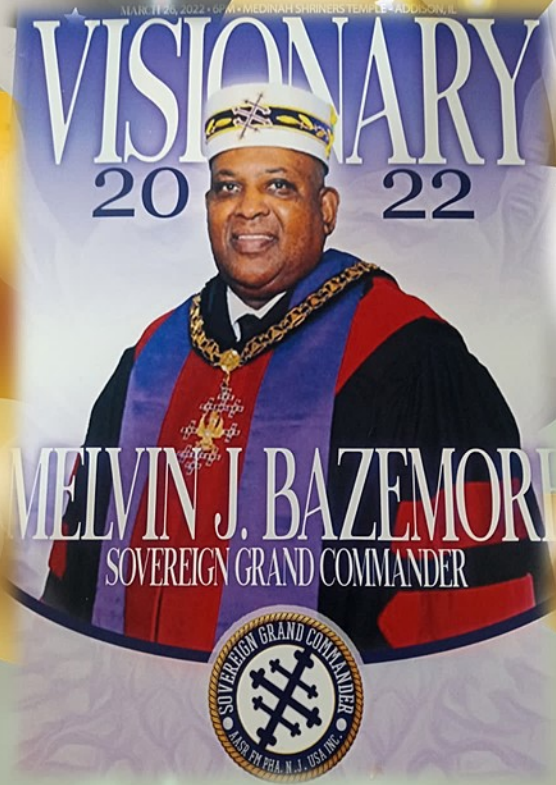


"To have faith is to understand how life works. If you have a building that stands on a weak foundation, it will fall. So be sure the building you build is on a strong foundation so it will not fall. In life, your faith should be just as strong so your

SOUL will not fall." - T.F.G. DeRamus

"Brothers and Sisters, it is important to live for the future and not live in your past because, if you live a negative life, you will destroy your future. But, if you live a positive life, you will live prosperously." - T.F.G. DeRamus

# Sovereign Grand Commander Melvin J. Bazemore



A festive and well attended banquet was held on March 26, 2022 at 7pm at Medinah Temple in Addison, Illinois honoring Sovereign Grand Inspector General Melvin J. Bazemore, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Northern Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliated. Our Sovereign Grand Commander was presented with the very first "Visionary Leadership Award" from Western Consistory #28 under the leadership of Sublime Prince Timothy R. Davis, Commander-In-Chief; and the Commanders of the Rite for the Valley of Chicago under the leadership of Grand Inspector General Frank Jarvis. Our very own Deputy, Sovereign Grand Inspector General Melvin Frierson, was awarded the first "Just Another Brother



# is the first Visionary Leadership Award Recipient



Award” which he humbly accepted. Sovereign Grand Inspector General Charles J. Stewart and State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Lois Whitaker were also presented with Certificates of Appreciation. As a “FIRST”, the banquet went rather smoothly. Apologies to anyone who may have been offended but hopefully the delicious meal, atmosphere and the joy of comradery replaced them. It was a wonderful affair and kudos to the entire Sovereign Grand Commanders Banquet Committee. For those not in attendance, you missed a great one!

- Sovereign Grand Inspector General Millard Driskell, 33°

# Valley of East St. Louis

*Grand Inspector General Kevin Johnson, 33<sup>o</sup>*

The contributions of the Tyree Consistory #64 of the Valley of East St. Louis to the community continued through the Holiday Seasons and winter months of 2021 and 2022. Working in conjunction with the Loyal Ladies of Tyree Assembly, Order of the Golden Circle, they delivered Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets across the cities of Brooklyn, East St. Louis, Venice and Madison, Illinois serving hundreds of families in need from the School Districts in the area – East St. Louis #189, Brooklyn, #188, Venice #3 and Madison #12. Their efforts continued during the winter months of 2021 and 2022 with the distribution of hats and gloves and other items to help sustain families in the aforementioned cities and beyond. Charity is not only in order during the Holidays but also in order when the Holiday



Seasons have passed. As such, families who are in need in these communities know that they have friends and a source of relief from the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry by the hands of Tyree Consistory and Tyree Assembly.



## Valley of Waukegan

*Grand Inspector General Curtis Dorsey, 33<sup>o</sup>*



### SGIG MERRITT RETIRES AS DEAN OF INSTRUCTION

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Donnie Merritt, 33<sup>o</sup>, retired as Dean of Instruction for North Shore Consistory #91 in the Valley of Waukegan. North Shore thanked this magnificent instructor who touched the lives of numerous Masons during his twenty-eight years as Dean of Instruction.

His dedication and concern were apparent. His honesty and integrity unquestioned. We are grateful that he was able to contribute his thoughts and expertise to multitudes of Masons during his time as dean.

The picture above is a photo of him receiving a certificate to be shared with his family for their consideration and sacrifice during his time away from home. We, the members of North Shore Consistory #91, are blessed to have him as a member and thank him for his extensive years of service.

## Valley of Rockford

*Grand Inspector General George Barmore, 33<sup>o</sup>*



Balthasar Consistory #92 worked in conjunction with Welcome Star Lodge #36 and Princess Zorach Chapter #20 of Rockford, Illinois to feed citizens in the community during the winter months. Together they fed thirty five families in December providing them sustenance and service during the trying times of COVID.



For many, the winter months have been more challenging due to the decreases in general services to the public during the pandemic. Yet, the Valley of Rockford and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois rose to the occasion to fill

the void with food and clothing yielding faithfully to the scripture noted in Matthew 25:35 of the Holy Bible—"For I was hungry and you gave me meat; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in."



# THE SCOTTISH RITE IN ILLINOIS

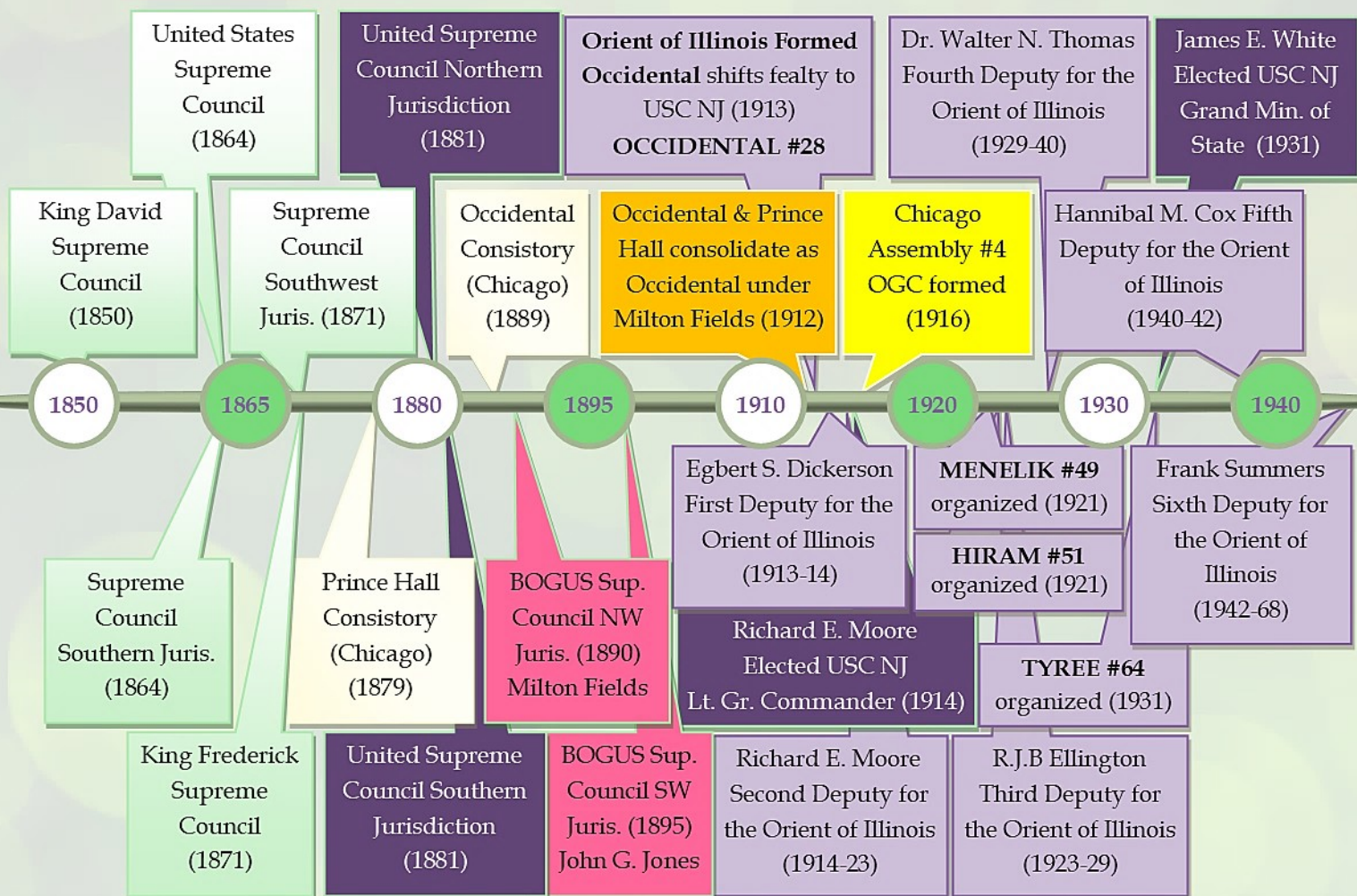


Prior to 1881, five Supreme Councils were in existence in the United States of America among African-American Freemasons:

1. *King David Supreme Council (KDSC) - Philadelphia, PA (1850)*
2. *United States Supreme Council (USSC) - New York, NY (1864)*
3. *Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction (SC-SJ) - Baltimore, MD (1864)*
4. *Supreme Council for the Southern and Western Jurisdiction (SC-SWJ) - Washington, DC (1871)*
5. *King Frederick Supreme Council (KFSC) - Philadelphia, PA (1871)*

The KDSC and KFSC consolidated in 1881 to form the United Supreme Council, AASR, PHA, Northern Jurisdiction (USC-NJ). The SC-SWJ and SC-SJ consolidated to form the United Supreme Council, AASR, PHA Southern Jurisdiction (USC-SJ). The USSC maintained its independent status. While in today's era, the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions are separated primarily along the Mason-Dixon line, they both contains Orients that are in other countries and continents including the Bahamas, Europe, Far East to name a few.

## The Scottish Rite in the State of Illinois



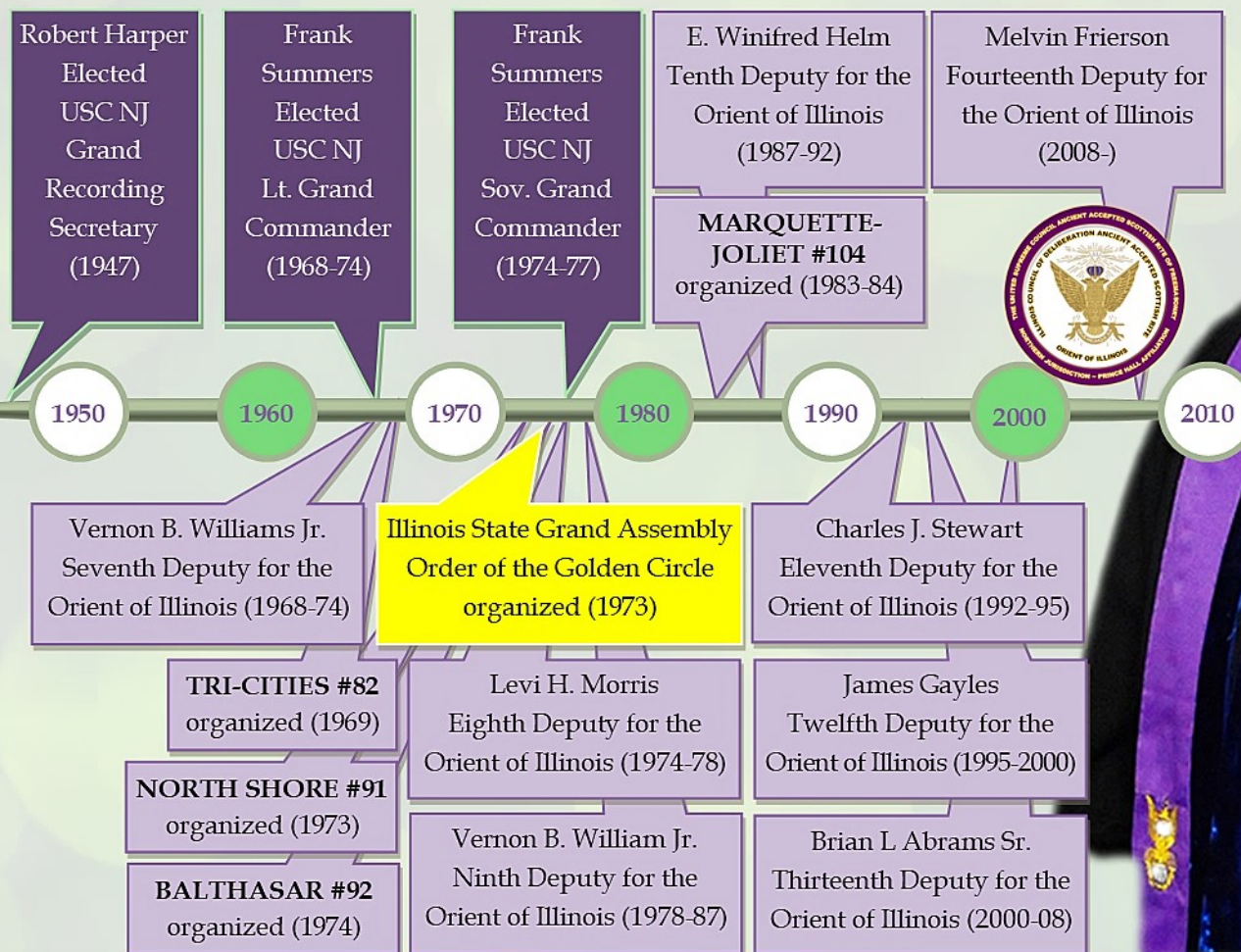
# FROM 1879 TO THE CURRENT ERA

originates from the SC-SWJ. Prince Hall Consistory was organized in 1879 in the City of Chicago with Illustrious Richard M. Hancock as its first Commander-In-Chief. A second Consistory, Occidental Consistory, was organized in 1889 by the USSC. Thus, the two Consistories serve as the source of the Scottish Rite within the state.

Challenges within the spectrum of the Scottish Rite during this era drove the creation of additional Supreme Councils. Shifts of fealty based on the decisions of the fraters during the early period of expansion

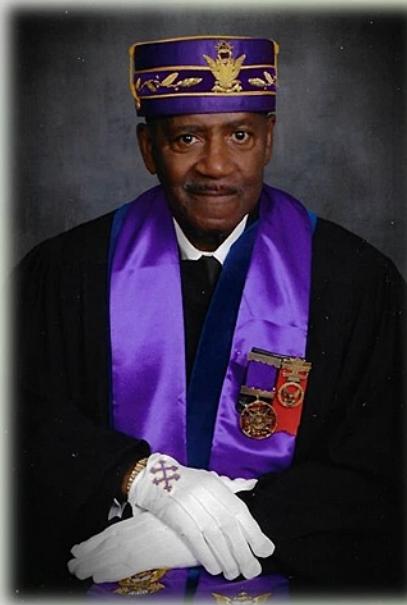
lead to the existence of multiple bodies within the same domains. Illinoisans founds themselves torn between legitimate and illegitimate Supreme Councils until the early 20th Century. This was not resolved until 1913.

In the early 20th Century, Prince Hall and Occidental Consistories consolidated under the name of Occidental. The declaration of fealty of Occidental in 1913 to the USC-NJ stabilized the Scottish Rite in Illinois under a single jurisdiction allowing the Orient of Illinois to expand as outlined in the following timeline:



# Sovereigns of Illinois: Illustrious Neal F. Carson

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Neal F. Carson, 33°, is the founding father of Marquette-Joliet Consistory #104. Carson suggested that the name of the Consistory be the namesake of the founding fathers of the City of Joliet—Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet. It was granted and the Consistory stands strong today.



A Mason since the 1960s, Carson is a member of Stone City Lodge #35. He served as its Worshipful Master in 1972 and 1973 and his Lodge served as the host Lodge for the Annual Grand Lodge Session of 1972. In his welcome address published in the Souvenir journal for the session he wrote:

*"If Masons today are building the Temple of self, it is by their actions and deeds, acting on the plumb. Anytime you see fallen humanity and give it your strong grip raising it up, you are building your Temple. When you see the disconsolate, the lonely, the discouraged and give them cheer, you are building your Temple. Anytime you give yourself, your all, for a worthwhile cause, you are building a Temple - a Temple that, when this Temple of clay dissolves, will be eternal in the heavens."*

This address summarizes the essence of Carson.

After passing the chair in 1973, he was appointed District Deputy Grand Master for the Grand Lodge. Already a Scottish Rite Mason, he was well acquainted with the teachings of the Rite and utilized those teachings along with the true spirit of brotherhood in the grand performance of his tasks as District Deputy Grand Master. So, while ensuring the stability of the district, he also elevated within the Scottish Rite which resulted in the expansion of the Orient of Illinois.

Carson actually joined Western Consistory #28 of the Valley of Chicago in 1967 after several conversations with Oscar Edmond. A remarkable Mason, Edmond was the general chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee in 1972. The success of this and subsequent efforts in the region built strong reputations for both of them. This served as the basis upon which a new Valley in the Orient of Illinois would be forged.

**Andrews:** *You were a charter Commander-In-Chief of a Consistory. What was that journey like?*

**Carson:** *I gauged the interests of brethren during visits*

*as a District Deputy Grand Master. I approached Illustrious Vernon B. Williams, Deputy for the Orient of Illinois, with a proposal to organize a Consistory. I had to obtain commitments from at least 50 Fraters. By July 31, 1983, I had secured 64 and "Marquette-Joliet" was organized under dispensation. The charter was granted at the United Supreme Council on May 7, 1984 in Colorado and presented on May 25, 1984.*

The establishment of Marquette-Joliet Consistory with Illustrious Carson as its very first Commander-In-Chief formally extended the Orient of Illinois by one Valley. This accomplishment in addition to all of his other labors for the Scottish Rite are feats that were worthy of recognition. As such, he was crowned a Grand Inspector General by the United Supreme Council in 1985 and has moved forward ever since.

**Andrews:** *When you look back over the years, what are your most memorable experiences in the Scottish Rite?*

**Carson:** *Starting the Consistory was definitely one. Also, being elevated to the 33rd Degree. I was an honorary member for 16 years before being elevated to a Sovereign Grand Inspector General in 2001. When Illustrious Brian L. Abrams was the Deputy for the Orient of Illinois, I joined him on two visits to Consistories in Germany. I enjoyed it the first time and had to do it again. One of the most memorable is being elevated to the Active Grade in 2020. The work to get the Consistory started is the most memorable of all.*

Carson remains active today because it is important for me to set an example of how Scottish Rite Masons should act. He stated "I am quiet but some mistake my quiet nature for weakness. I observe and correct because character is an important trait in Freemasonry in general but in the Scottish Rite in particular. The Masons back in the day were very strict and very high on character. For anyone who wishes to join us, they need to understand that these traits are common in Scottish Rite Masons. If you work diligently and advance, you may be selected for the thirty third Degree but the numbers are not as important as the character of the man that you are."

*See the full interview between Sovereign Grand Inspectors General Neal F. Carson and Daryl Andrews in Scottish Rite Reflections Volume 2.*

# Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter Office Locations

alzheimer's  association®

## Illinois Chapter

### Illinois Chapter Headquarters

8430 West Bryn Mawr, Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60631  
p 847.933.2413 f 773.444.0930

### Bloomington

207 South Prospect, Suite 1  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
p 309.662.8392

### Joliet

P.O. Box 2674  
Joliet, IL 60434  
p 815.744.0804 f 815.773.7340

### Peoria

614 West Glen Avenue  
Peoria, IL 61614  
p 309.681.1100 f 309.681.1101

### Quincy

P.O. Box 86  
Quincy, IL 62306  
p 217.641.0140 f 844-273-4364

### Rockford

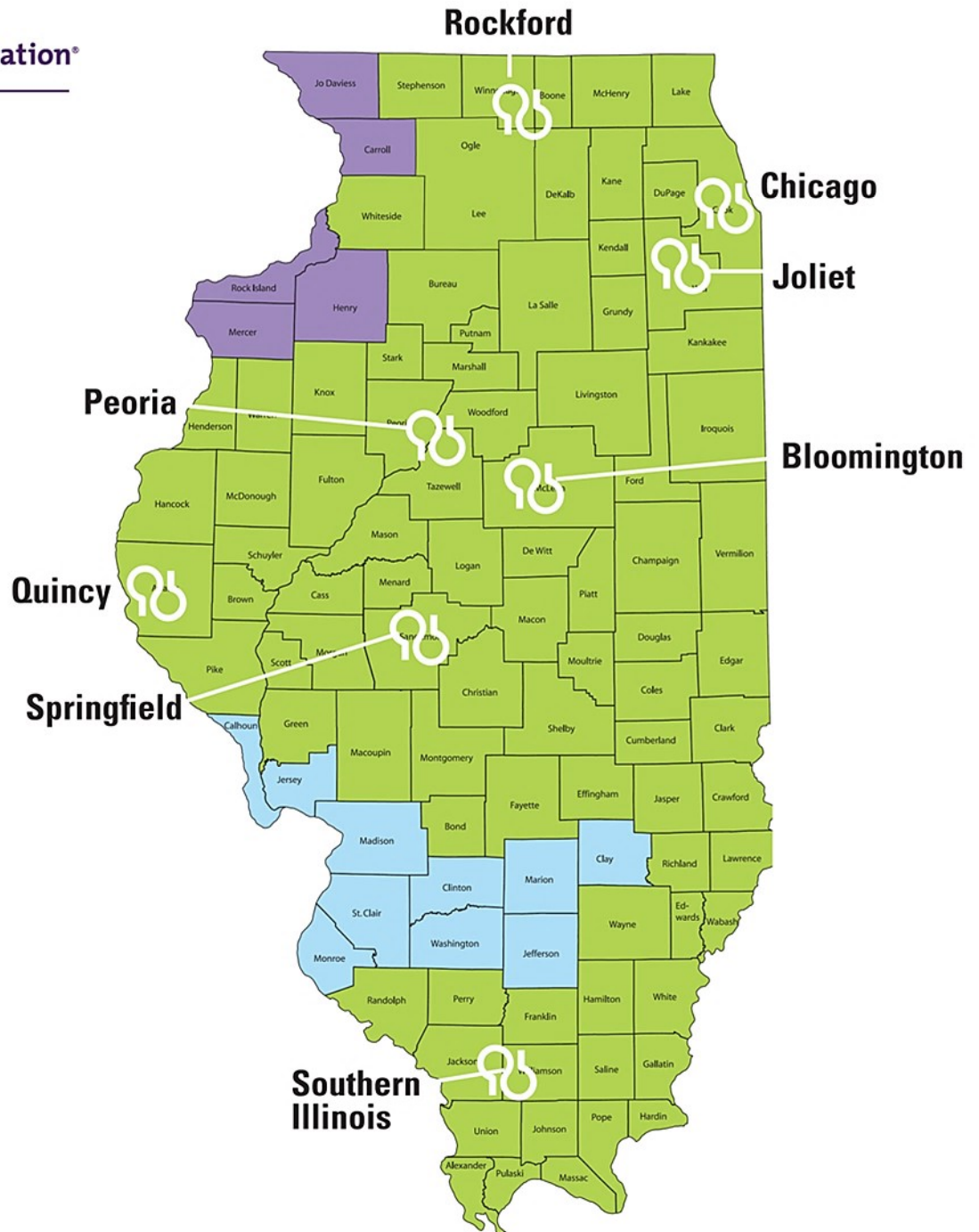
1111 South Alpine Road, Suite 307  
Rockford, IL 61108  
p 815.484.1300 f 815.526.9060

### Southern Illinois

805 W. DeYoung Street, Suite B  
Marion, IL 62959  
p 618.319.4950

### Springfield

2309 West White Oaks Drive, Suite E  
Springfield, IL 62704  
p 217.726.5184 f 217.726.5185

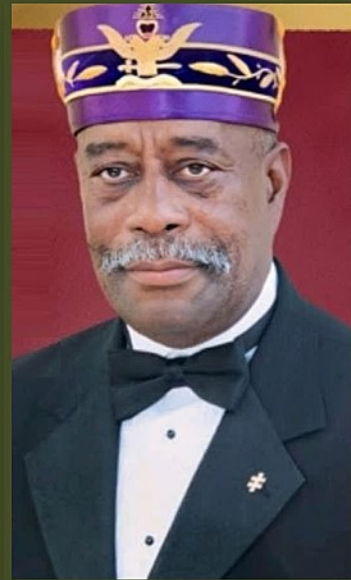




3728 West 83rd Place  
Chicago, Illinois 60652

## Rest in Peace SGIG Lafayette Gatling Sr.

The Orient of Illinois has experienced multiple losses in membership in 2021 and 2022 at all ranks and levels. As the timing of earthly transition is not foreseen by the eyes and hands of man, it is therefore left up to our Heavenly Father to pluck flowers from the fields of the living. Our trust in Him, who does all things well, our faith well-founded, we, in the land of the living, mourn all of those who have gone on to that undiscovered country. Of them, Sovereign Grand Inspector General Lafayette Gatling Sr., an Active Member of the United Supreme Council, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Northern Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliated, USA, Inc., a well manicured flower has been plucked from this earthly garden. An avid Scottish Rite Mason and entrepreneur extraordinaire, his donations to the Rite and to charity are renown.



## Scottish Rite Reflections

**Volume One**—Scottish Rite Reflections is a stimulating way of looking at Scottish Rite Masonry in particular and Freemasonry in general. This book examines the history, legacies, traditions, philosophies and experiences through the eyes of practitioners. The book uniquely addresses the question "what Scottish Rite Masonry means to me".

**Volume Two**—Scottish Rite Reflections Volume Two is here!!! From the feedback received from Fraters, Loyal Ladies and the public, more were inspired to submit contributions for Volume Two and they have answered the call. You will not be disappointed!!! Submissions have been received from all over the Northern Jurisdiction and they include essays, poems and interviews from Fraters all over the globe.

**\$24.95 Softcover – \$37.95 Hardcover – [www.USCNJPHA.org](http://www.USCNJPHA.org)**

