

2024

The Spring Bulletin



**A Crown of
Light for Life**



**Cyber
Security**



VOTE



**Footsteps of
One Shot Doc**

**Sovereign Grand Commander
1977-1985**

Dr. Russell S. Gideon



The United Supreme Council



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

Printed twice annually by the United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc., 1514 Fitzwater Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146-2123.

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

SGIG Daryl L. Andrews, 33°
Editor

Associate Editors / Columnists

- SGIG Sidney D. Broadnax, Jr., 33°
- SGIG Grady Edge, 33°
- SGIG Roland K. Lee, Sr., 33°
- SGIG Edward M. Brooks, 33°
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Photographers

- GIG George T. Smith, 33°
- SGIG Richard A. Maxey, 33°

The cutoff for the next edition is:

September 1, 2024

All submissions may be forwarded to Bulletin@AndrewsPress.com

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OFFICIAL SUMMONS

To All Sovereign Grand Inspectors General and Grand Inspectors General of the Thirty-Third and Last Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry belonging to the United Supreme Council, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., Inc.

+++++

TAKE DUE NOTICE THAT

The One Hundred Forty-Third Session of The United Supreme Council since the Union will be held at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Friday May 24th, Saturday May 25th, Sunday May 26th, Monday May 27th, and Tuesday May 28th, 2024.

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All Sovereign Grand Inspectors General are required to attend. All Grand Inspectors General who have not attended the last two (2) sessions are Required to attend in compliance with Article 111, Section 9, Constitution and General Regulations.

+++++

BY ORDER OF:



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

Attest:



III. Edward M. Brooks II, 33°
Secretary General H.E.

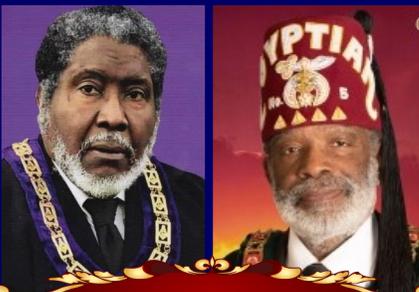


United Supreme Council Book Store



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REST IN PEACE

Guillermo Thorne Dr. Donald Ware





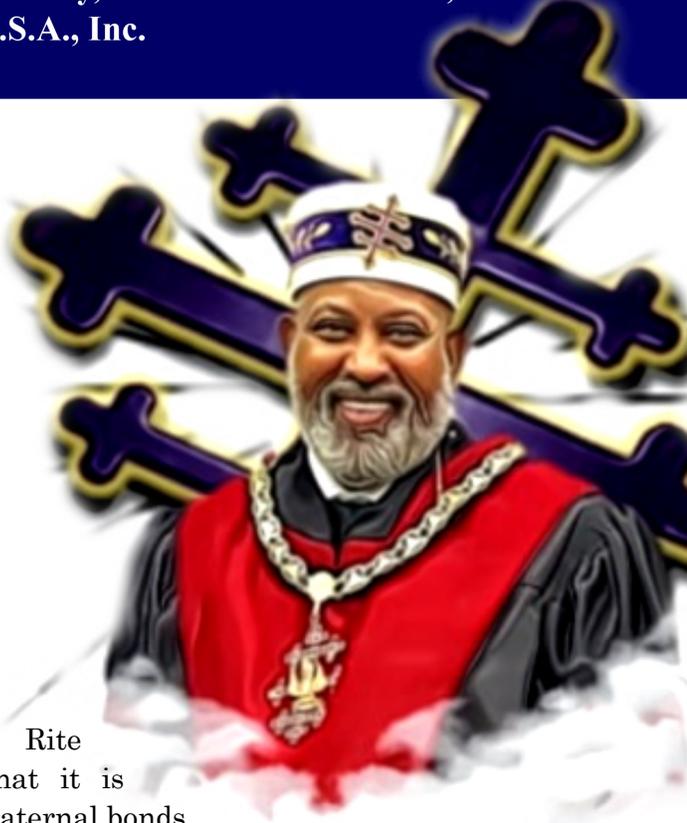
The United Supreme Council



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

Sovereign Grand Commander

Nearly 240 years ago, a Masonic charter was issued by the Premier Grand Lodge of England warranting the formation of the African Lodge in America. The charter represents a documented legacy of legitimacy to which all Prince Hall Affiliated Grand Lodges can trace their foundation and is a prime factor for recognition between them. With exclusive territorial jurisdiction defined, they operate in harmony and work together to promote the growth of Freemasonry at large. As the Scottish Rite is built upon the superstructure of Freemasonry, it is critical that legitimate Scottish Rite Bodies continue to recognize one another in the same manner so that the Scottish Rite can operate in harmony in the respective boundaries and her mission be promoted consistently upon the same ideals.

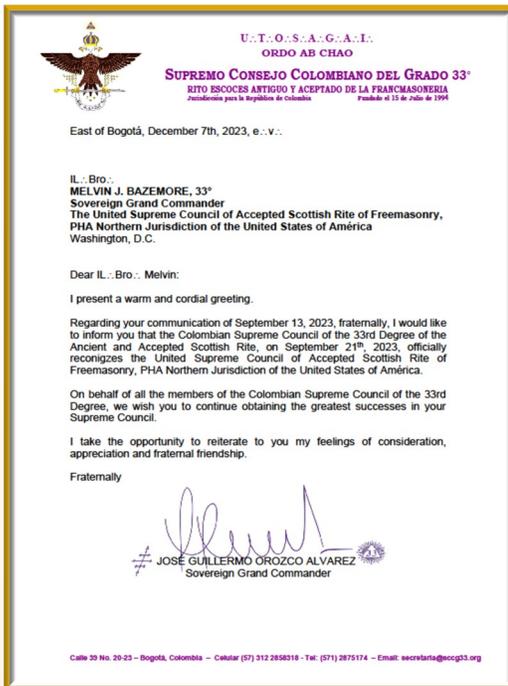


Today, the Scottish Rite continues to prove that it is alive and well as the fraternal bonds between legitimate bodies continue to extend. Most recently, the Colombian Supreme Council of the 33rd Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite extended the hand of friendship to our United Supreme Council (left). In doing so, our United Supreme Council has recognition on nearly all continents around the globe.

As we prepare for our 143rd annual session in the Orient of Wisconsin, a focus on growth and progress remains our highest priority. For it was by this mindset that Prince Hall Freemasonry has remained strong for 240 years. Maintaining this focus, will ensure that we achieve the same target 97 years from now.

Yours in the Rite,

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



EDMUND PETTUS BRIDGE CROSSING 2024

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

CIVIC SPOTLIGHT: *Chicago Board of Elections Exec. Director*

CRADLE TO COLLEGE UPDATES

FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF ONE SHOT DOC

VETERANS RESOURCE COMMITTEE

THE SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDERS:

Illustrious Dr. Russell S. Gideon

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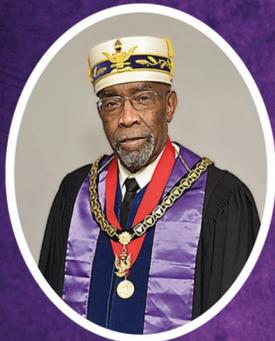
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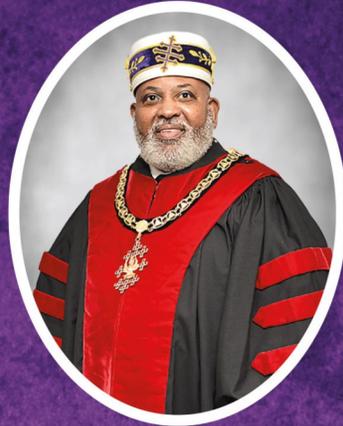
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The United Supreme Council

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



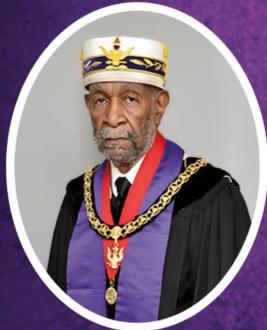
ILL. SYDNEY D. BROADNAX, JR., 33°
LIEUTENANT GRAND COMMANDER



ILL. DR. MELVIN J. BAZEMORE, 33°
SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER



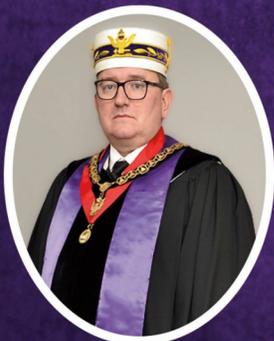
ILL. GRADY EDGE, 33°
GRAND MINISTER OF STATE



ILL. ROLAND K. LEE, 33°
TREASURER GENERAL HOLY EMPIRE

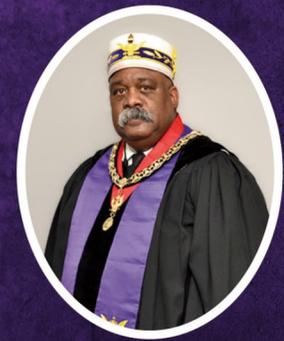


ILL. EDWARD M. BROOKS II, 33°
SECRETARY GENERAL HOLY EMPIRE



ILL. DANIEL R. POOLE, 33°
GRAND RECORDING SECRETARY

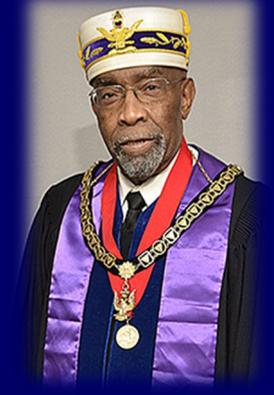
OFFICERS OF
THE UNITED SUPREME COUNCIL
PRINCE HALL AFFILIATION
NORTHERN JURISDICTION
SERVING FOR THE
47TH TRIENNIUM
2022 - 2025



ILL. RAYNARD HUGHES, 33°
CATHEDRAL SECRETARY

Lieutenant Grand Commander

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Sidney D. Broadnax, Jr., 33°



“MAKING A DIFFERENCE” - M.A.D.R. (Making A Difference Reporting)

The M.A.D.R. program is designed to strategically capture and aggregate our community involvement and donations at both the national and local levels. We are encouraged to continue REPORTING our Activities such as Scholarships, taking care of the Needy, our Times (hours), Mileage doing any type of charitable work, etc. LET US CONTINUE TO WORK AT “MAKING A DIFFERENCE” by ENHANCING Our SCOTTISH RITE EXPERIENCES!

Somewhere I read that “The Beauty of Life is, while we cannot undo what is done, we can see it, understand it, improve it, and learn from it!”



M.A.D.R.—REPORT YOUR ACTS OF CHARITY AND SERVICE LIKE THESE TODAY!!!

Grand Minister of State

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Grady Edge, 33°



As a man that was a teen of the late 1940s, and a young adult of the 50's I have seen many changes in this world. While at the same time, I have witnessed the treatment of the peoples of my community and seen some of the many accomplishments of our community. One of the prestigious events of our country I've seen is man going to the moon, and perhaps the most prestigious event is the election of a black man to the presidency to the United States of America.

These two very notable events were very great accomplishments however, the one of a black man getting to be elected as the president of America took over 350 years and countless lives lost to accomplish it. Getting a man to land on the moon took less than a decade once the goal was set. I'm not downplaying the significance of landing a man on the moon but I am highlighting the importance of getting black men recognized.

To get the black man elected as president, many people lost their lives fighting for our community to have the right to vote. When we vote, we can help elect those candidates who will protect our welfare and interests for future generations and preserve our communities. Under the previous presidential administration, cases of police brutality and killing of Black citizens increased at an alarming rate. What has been determined is that when we vote and partake in the political process and are proactive in establishing better local relationships between our communities and law enforcement, there is less harm and death to our community.

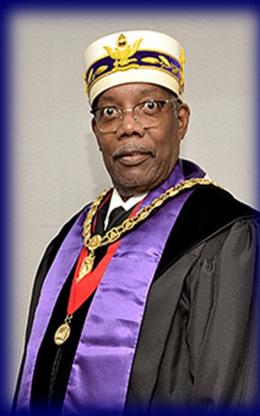
There should be a constant drumbeat for the need to vote and to influence as many as possible to register and vote. We should continue to hear that same drumbeat at every election at your local, county, state and federal elections. The sound of that drumbeat is saying “WE NEED TO VOTE!”

Secretary General of the Holy Empire

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Edward M. Brooks, II, 33°

First giving praise to the GAOTU for his many blessing. As we prepare for United Supreme Council Annual Session in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where we will be making approximately 130 new peers and greeting those we have known for years. I would like to personally “CONTRATULATE THE CLASS 2024.”

As we continue to move this United Supreme Council in a very positive direction and with the assistance of the website for notification, registration and to prepare for this year’s session, reducing our printing, postage and distribution costs immensely. We still need your assistance in assisting those members who are not as computer literate as yourselves. We



have many events planned for the membership in Milwaukee, so that you will be able to take something away from this session to improve in your Masonic knowledge.

For those of you who have never been to Milwaukee, take time out of your busy schedule to avail yourselves to all the amenities that this great city has to offer, like shopping and many great eateries. If your schedule permits, you should carve out an extra day or two to take advantage of the city. Don’t forget your required medication and pack it separately from your checked luggage. I am looking forward to seeing, meeting and greeting you in Milwaukee.

From the Desk of the Editor

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Daryl L. Andrews, 33°

The Bulletin has now shifted to electronic delivery and will save the United Supreme Council a ton of funds. **FREE** technology allows us to publish on the website without size restrictions but with **LIVE** website links. This will help us to expand the audience to include the whole Scottish Rite and the public. Hopefully, it will generate new opportunities for our future.

In this edition, we extend the series on the Sovereign Grand Commanders. Dr. Russell S. Gideon was a phenomenal man and fraternal stalwart who set a grand example that should be emulated today. Our Grand Prior, Dr. Wilton E. Blake echoes this message in his column in that we must share our wisdom today for solid growth in the future. New columnists will keep us abreast of security and health matters. Our other columnists cover the remaining basis relative to mentorship, history, veterans affairs and more.

Special thanks to SGIGs Stuart A. Lee and Reginald Stewart, GIG Samuel Lindsey and SP William Irving for



providing editorial support while I was on medical leave. Our photographers are second to none. Facebook photos have also been snagged specifically from Sovereign Grand Commander Bazemore, SGIGs Daniel Poole, Milton Jackson, Gino Anderson, Josph Slay Jr.; GIGs Cliff Brown and Reiss Byrd; and SP Christin Campbell.

Editorial tasks are numerous and rank or grade have no bearing on them. We have several projects underway. If you possess this skill set and would like to contribute, forward your resume to Bulletin@AndrewsPress.com.

In closing, take a moment, visit your doctor. Ascertain a complete status of your health. I remain thankful to the health workshops that provide education and opportunities to gain awareness and identify solutions to health problems. Taking the advice of these professionals can save lives. I AM A LIVING WITNESS. If being macho prevents you from seeing a doctor, YOU are just being foolish. Don’t delay, visit your doctor today!!

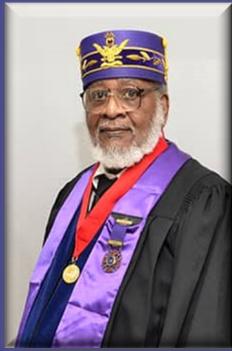


Samuel Lindsey, 33°
(Ohio)



William Irving, 32°
(Illinois)

Deputies for the Orients of the Holy Empire



ALASKA
SGIG Clifford
Hastings, 33°



BAHAMAS
SGIG Everette Z.
Mackey, 33°



CANADA
SGIG Frederick
Ofusu, 33°



CARIBBEAN
SGIG Edward B.
Darnell, 33°



COLORADO/WY/UT
SGIG Lionell
Cummings, 33°



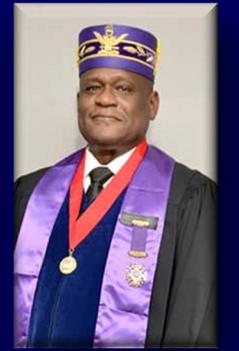
CONNECTICUT
SGIG Ronald A.
Thomas, 33°



DELAWARE
SGIG James A.
Scott, 33°



EUROPE
SGIG Enrique
John, 33°



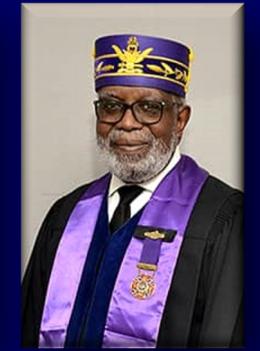
FAR EAST
SGIG Charles H.
Bush, 33°



ILLINOIS
SGIG Melvin
Frierson, 33°



INDIANA
SGIG Carl
Drummer, 33°



IOWA
SGIG Osumana V.
Cassell, 33°



KANSAS
SGIG James S.
Webb, 33°



MASSACHUSETTS
SGIG Daniel C.
Brightwell Sr., 33°



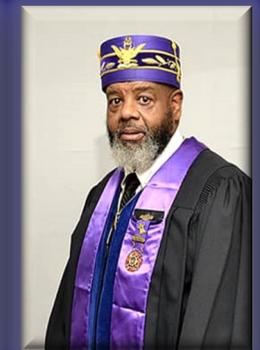
MICHIGAN
SGIG Christopher
Buck, 33°



MINNESOTA
SGIG John W.
Hardeman III, 33°



NEBRASKA
SGIG Johnny L.
Cummings, 33°



NEW JERSEY
SGIG Robert L.
Oglesby Sr., 33°



NEW YORK
SGIG Hermon
Simpson, 33°



OHIO
SGIG Carl A.
Williams, 33°



PENNSYLVANIA
SGIG Leonard A.
Heard, 33°



RHODE ISLAND
SGIG Prince
Reid Jr., 33°



WASHINGTON / OR
SGIG Gregory D.
Wraggs Sr., 33°



WISCONSIN
SGIG Marshall E.
Tharpe, 33°



- CLICK ON THE ICON TO VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR THE ORIENT

DESK OF THE GRAND PRIOR

“Becoming Better than When We Started”

Authored by Lloyd D. Newell,
Submitted by Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Rev. Dr. Wilton E. Blake, I, 33°



In 1978, Nobel Prize winner Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn spoke at Harvard's commencement ceremony. The students in the audience had reason to be proud of their accomplishments. They were graduating from one of the world's most prestigious universities. Future success, at least by worldly standards, probably seemed assured.



To this accomplished audience, Solzhenitsyn gave a stark and humbling reminder we are born to die. And since that's the case, he continued then our task on earth evidently must be of a more spiritual nature [than just to be happy]. It cannot be unrestrained enjoyment of everyday life. It cannot be the search for the best ways to obtain material goods and then cheerfully get the most of them. It has to be the fulfillment of a permanent, earnest duty so that one's life journey may become an experience of moral growth, so that one may leave life a better human than one started it.(1)

It's good counsel for high-achieving college graduates and for all of us. No matter what we've accomplished in the past, life is an ongoing quest to be better. And since life on earth is temporary, that quest would feel empty if it did not improve us spiritually. This is a spiritual quest, and it includes not just becoming smarter and more productive but also gentler, kinder, more patient, more hopeful, more loving. That is the quest of a lifetime.

This quest requires that we learn the difference between the temporary and the permanent. Along the way, we come to understand that among those permanent things are memories, relationships, wisdom, and love. We come to see that goodness and compassion outlive us, that people matter more than things that God is real and He matters most of all. We discover the truth of the biblical proverb:

“A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and living favour rather than silver and gold” (Proverbs 22:1)



Higher education is a blessing. But the highest education comes as we strive to nurture our faith in God and grow our moral and spiritual nature so we can leave this life better human beings than we were when we started.

Source:

(1) Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn: *A World Split Apart*, Harvard University commencement address, June 8, 1978.

IN MEMORY OF

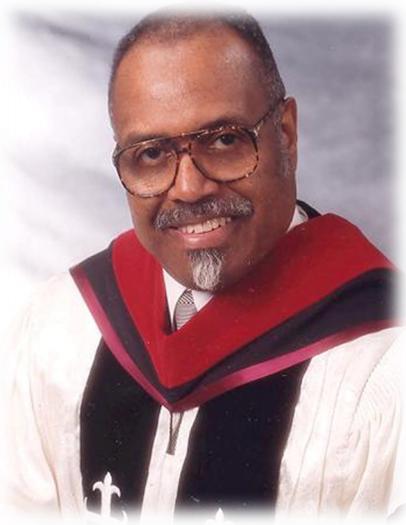
“Rev. Dr. Charles G. Adams, 33^o”

*by Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Edward B. Darnell, 33^o, Deputy-At-Large
and Trustee, Hartford Memorial Baptist Church*

The renown Pastor Emeritus of Olivet Institutional Baptist Church of Cleveland, Ohio, the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., defines birth as a “dot” and death as a “dash.” The period in between the two, he calls life.

The late Rev. Dr. Charles Gilcrest Adams’s “dot” began on December 13, 1936, and his dash coming on November 29, 2023, with the life he lived between, calling him to preach, teach, advocate, educate, mentor, lead serve and direct while carrying the banner of Christian love, fellowship and understanding all over the world.

To even begin to speak to his many accomplishments would take up this entire Bulletin, with a call for additional pages, so in unfair condensation, I begin by boasting that he was MY spiritual Sheppard, as well as a member of my Lodge. He Pastored Hartford Memorial Baptist Church for over 50 years. Was President of the Detroit Branch NAACP, during which time he organized a successful economic Boycott against the City of Dearborn, Michigan, until they rescinded their city ordinance that bared non-Dearborn



residents (mainly people of color) from attending Dearborn public parks. He served as a visiting professor at Harvard Theological Seminary for a five (5) year period, flying home on the weekends where he often conducted weddings for his congregants and preached funerals for the deceased, then preached two sermons on Sunday morning before flying back to Boston on Monday.

He built a low-income Senior Citizen Housing Complex known as Hartford Village which is comprised of 86 Units divided into one- and two-bedroom accommodations as well as some larger cottage dwellings. He ventured into the commercial real estate market by

establishing church owned business franchises along the busy business strip of 7 Mile Road not far from the church, which provides jobs for the unemployed. He not only has an earned Doctorate, but Honorary Doctoral degrees from numerous other citadels of higher learning and was listed more than once in Ebony magazine as one of the fifteen (15) greatest black preachers. He was a proud and supporting member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and a 33^o Scottish Rite Mason and members of the Leon H. Stewart Class of 1989.

His son Charles Christian Adams succeeded him in the pulpit, and delivered his eulogy which he declared need not be long, for PA (Pastor Adams) as he was affectionately called had already ascended to the Holy House and is now sitting on the right hand of our God the Father in Heaven, and those that loved but proceeded him in death were crying Hosannah out loud, and asking him, “What took you so long?”

*The period between his “dot”
and “dash” was full up,
and he shall not easily
be replaced.*

Worldwide Recognition Map among Bodies of the



THE POWER FOUR AMERICAN
UNITED SUPREME COUNCILS


U.T.O.S.A.A.G.A.L.E.
ORDO AB CHAO
SUPREMO CONSEJO COLOMBIANO DEL GRADO 33°
RITO ESCOCÉS ANTIGUO Y ACEPTADO DE LA FRAMCASONERÍA
 Fundado por la República de Colombia Fundado el 13 de Julio de 1994

East of Bogotá, December 7th, 2023, e.v.:

IL. Bro.:
MELVIN J. BAZEMORE, 33°
 Sovereign Grand Commander
 The United Supreme Council of Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry,
 PHA Northern Jurisdiction of the United States of América
 Washington, D.C.

Dear IL. Bro.: Melvin:

I present a warm and cordial greeting.

Regarding your communication of September 13, 2023, fraternally, I would like to inform you that the Colombian Supreme Council of the 33rd Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, on September 21st, 2023, officially recognizes the United Supreme Council of Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, PHA Northern Jurisdiction of the United States of América.

On behalf of all the members of the Colombian Supreme Council of the 33rd Degree, we wish you to continue obtaining the greatest successes in your Supreme Council.

I take the opportunity to reiterate to you my feelings of consideration, appreciation and fraternal friendship.

Fraternally


JOSE GUILLERMO OROZCO ALVAREZ
 Sovereign Grand Commander

Calle 39 No. 26-03 - Bogotá, Colombia - Celular (57) 312 2858318 - Tel: (571) 2875174 - Email: secretaria@scog33.org

SUPREME COUNCIL, 33°

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry
 OF CANADA

Universi Terrarum Orbis Architectonici Gloria Ad Ingens

Suprême Conseil National de France
 Ordo ab Chao - Deus meumque Jus
The Sovereign Grand Commander

U.T.O.S.A.A.G.A.L.E.
 SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE 33RD AND LAST DEGREE FOR GREECE
 ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE (est. 1872)
 EMMANOUIL GERAKIOS 33°
 SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER

Universi Terrarum Orbis Architectonici Ad Gloriam Ingentis
Supremo Consejo del Grado 33° del Rito Escocés Antiguo y Aceptado
 PARA LA REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA

NORBERTO J. ROSSINI, 33°
 Sovereign Grand Commander

Tte. Gral. Pedro EDU.F. - CIBRAAZ
 C.A.B.A. - República Argentina
 Tel. (041) 15 482.098
 web:supremagrancorredador@ug33argentina.org

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED
 SCOTTISH RITE OF ROMANIA


 SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER
 Stelian Nistor, 33°

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry



“WE MAY HAVE ALL COME
FROM DIFFERENT SHIPS,
BUT WE’RE ON
THE SAME BOAT NOW.”

— MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

THE UNITED SUPREME COUNCIL, ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY, PRINCE HALL AFFILIATION, NORTHERN JURISDICTION, U.S.A., INC. ENJOYS RECOGNITION FROM SEVERAL, LEGITIMATE SUPREME COUNCILS OF THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY ACROSS THE GLOBE. THROUGH RECOGNITION AGREEMENTS, THE INTEGRITY OF THE SCOTTISH RITE BECOMES MORE SECURE PROVIDING A STRONGER BASIS UPON WHICH CLAIMS OF REGULARITY CAN BE DETERMINED. IN DOING SO, UNFOUNDED CLAIMS MAY BE QUICKLY AND EASILY DISPELLED.

THE GOLDEN LIGHT

Loyal Lady Pamela Gallimore

*Managing Editor, THE DOVE & THE QUILL
Volume 2*

Loyal Lady Pamela Gallimore, who hails from Mary E. Gould Assembly, No. 61, Valley of Ambler, Orient of Pennsylvania, followed the membership opportunity created by her Father being a Scottish Rite Mason and member of Martin Luther King, Jr., Consistory, No. 86, and proudly joined the Order of the Golden Circle in the spring of 2008. Her service began with Ways and Means as a State Grand Assembly Queen followed by her path to becoming the Loyal Lady Ruler in 2013. She continued the long-standing collaboration with Martin Luther King, Jr. Consistory, No. 86 in service to their local community with successful, family-focused outreach projects. Her cornerstone charity as the Loyal Lady Ruler was "Pamoza International" where one of their initiatives is consistent with LL Gallimore's national and global commitment to provide secondary educational opportunities for all girls.

Her involvement in Statewide activities includes having served in 2019 and 2022 as the Coordinator for Loyal Lady Activities for the United Supreme Council held in Philadelphia. She also served as the Secretary of the Pennsylvania State Grand Assembly in 2019-2020 and as the Recording Secretary of the Pennsylvania State Grand Assembly in 2020-2022. She currently serves as the State Grand Loyal Lady Outer Guard.

A graduate of Howard University with a BS in Psychology and Villanova University with a MBA in Systems Design, she has over 40 years of experience in Finance, Higher Education Administration and Education Policy. She began her career in Finance with the former brokerage firm of Butcher and Singer, Inc. Her commitment, however, has been higher education administration and education policy. She served in several leadership, administrative, policy and adjunct faculty positions with Temple and West Chester

Universities and with Philadelphia and Delaware County Community Colleges. She also served in the administration of Governor Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania as the Bureau Director for Postsecondary Services, Pennsylvania Department of Education. She was the first African American to hold this position.



Her community service has included, but is not limited to: Big Sister match in Big Brothers Big Sisters, Board of Directors of the West Chester Area School District and President of the School Board, Board member Domestic Violence Center of Chester County, Board member Maternal and Child Health Consortium, member American Association of University Women, member Black Women in Higher Education, member American Association for Women in Community Colleges, member Black School Educators, NGO representative to the U.N. Year of the Woman in Moscow, Board member and Board President Philadelphia Youth Network and a patron of the First World Theatre Company.

In addition to a being a member of the Order of the Golden Circle, she is the Worthy Matron of Ida W. Brooke Chapter 83, Order of Eastern Star, Inc., Deborah Grand Chapter, Prince Hall Adopted, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a Charter member of Amen Ra Court No. 225 of the Daughters. She is an avid reader and has an interest in and plans return travels to the Middle East and East African destinations. Although retired, she is currently an adjunct faculty member at Delaware County Community College in the Department of Business and Computer Sciences. She resides in West Chester, Pennsylvania and is the extraordinarily proud parent of Dr. Zachary Mondesire.

Her enthusiasm and dedication are to the success and longevity of Scottish Rite Masonry and the Order of the Golden Circle! She loyally, and as a lady, wears her Crown!

Labanus Consistory No. 56

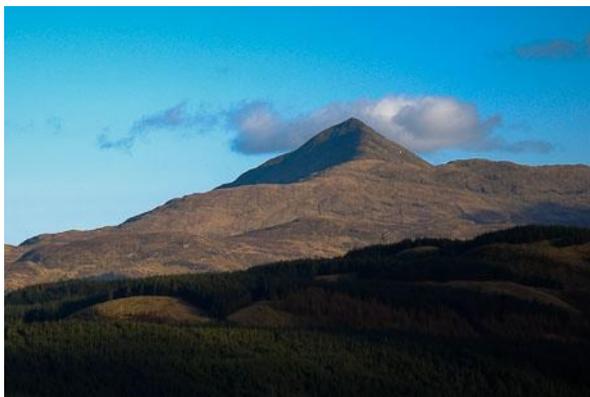
Valley of Salt Lake City

Orient of Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah

Chartered May 18, 1924 (Defunct)

In the early 1920s, the United Supreme Council continued its spread westward and found a group of eager men in Utah. The name “Labanus” may be more familiar to some as it is similar to the name in one of the degrees of the Consistory—Knight of the Royal Axe, or Prince of Libanus—the 22nd degree. The story of this degree tells of those who cut cedar from the forests of Lebanon. The underlying lesson is that and that the goodness in performing labor (working) should be celebrated. “Labanus” is also an ancient name for the country of Lebanon and lends its name to the mountain range there.

In the early 20s it took a great amount of “work” to organize men, inform them of masonic happenings and effect change in the form of creating something new. They enjoyed neither the immediate communication systems nor tolerable racial climate we have today and that certainly imbued a sense of resiliency within them. However, all trees do not bear good fruit. One of the primary organizers of this Consistory, S.P. H. E. Jackson 32° was involved in the illegal creation of a Council of Royal and Select Masters in the city a few years prior. This Consistory did not make it through the Great Depression era.



OUR HISTORY SHOULD NOT BE A MYSTERY—XIX

“Consistorial Origins”

*By Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Reginald B. Stewart, 33°, Grand Historian*

In May 1976, years after this Consistory went dormant another Consistory sprouted in its place—Ben Lomond Consistory No. 94—whose name is derived from another mountain in Europe—Ben Lomond in Scotland.



Ophir Consistory No. 48

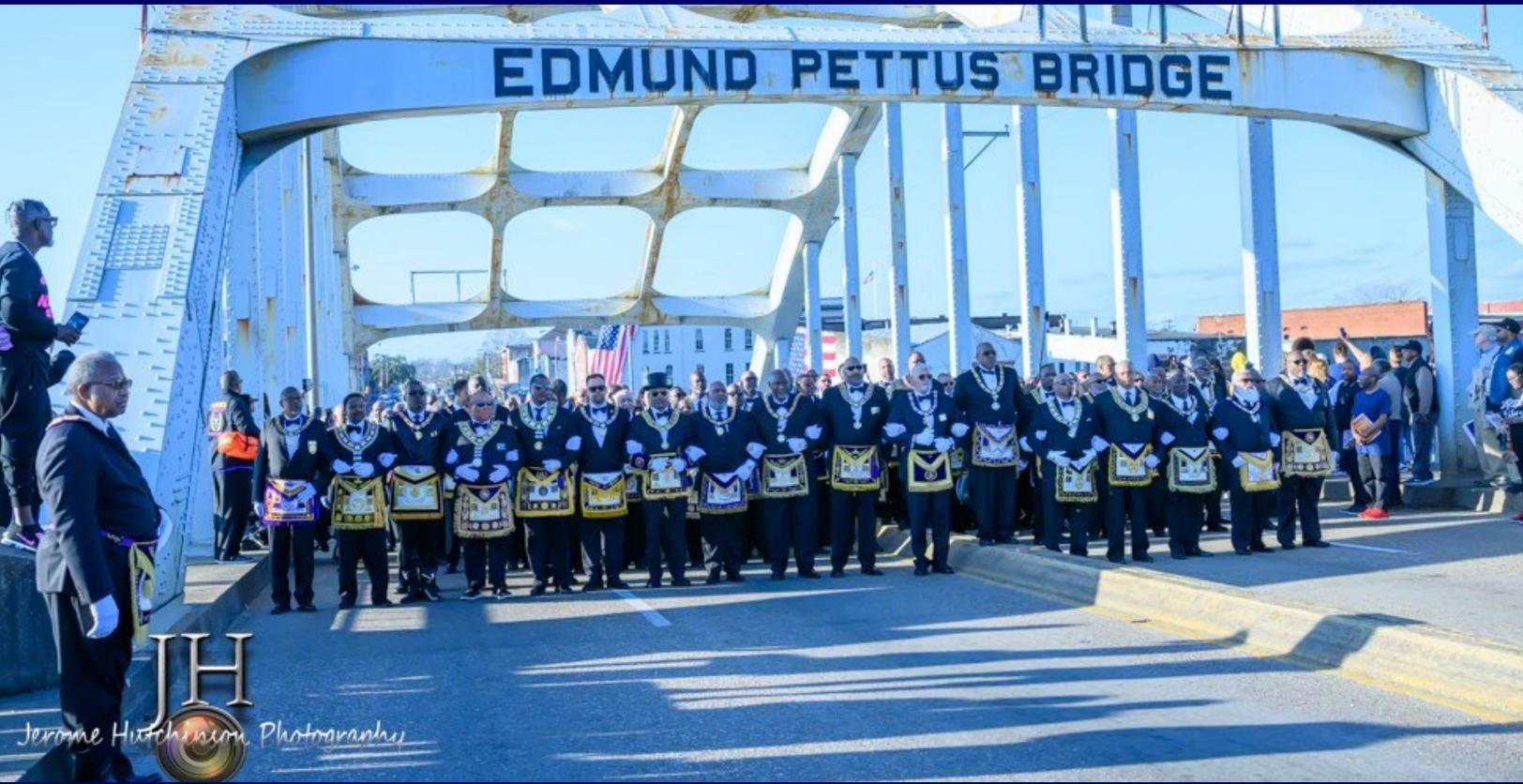
Valley of Trenton, Orient of New Jersey

Chartered May 21, 1921

The ancient city of Ophir, as mentioned in the Bible, was an area renowned for its wealth, especially gold. The exact geographical location, however, has been highly debated. It has been theorized the city is in Sri Lanka; India; Africa; Saudia Arabia; or Ethiopia. King Solomon and Hiram, King of Tyre received goods and supplies from this port every third year. The name “Ophir” has also been ascribed to a son of Joktan—prince over the children of Shem. Mention of Ophir, as it relates to the port and the person can be found numerous places in the Bible—Genesis 10:29; 1 Kings 9:28; 1 Kings 10:11; 1 Kings 22:48; 1 Chronicles 1:23; 1 Chronicles 29:4; 2 Chronicles 8:18; 2 Chronicles 9:10; Job 22:24; Job 28:16; Psalm 45:9; and Isaiah 13:12. Illustrating the definition of the word, the Trenton area has been a rich preserve from the Grand Lodge of New Jersey and the United Supreme Council, Northern Jurisdiction to mine from.

2024 Edmund Pettus Bridge Crossing

Photos from Sovereign Grand Inspectors General Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, 33° & Eugene Anderson, 33°; Grand Inspector General

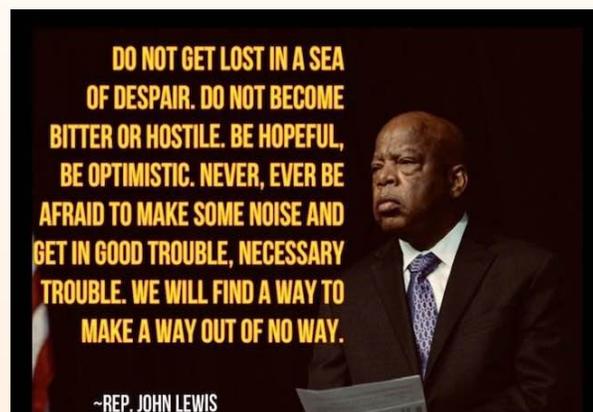


In commemoration of the 1965 Bloody Sunday March across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, thousands from across the globe participated in the re-enactment march on Sunday, March 3, 2024. The purpose of the 1965 march was to aid in securing the rights of black citizens to vote as was set to be guaranteed by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that was passed by United State Congress. While the act provided provisions to secure voting, the enforcement of the provisions was not honored prompting the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in March of 1965.

Several were beaten by police including the Honorable Brother John Lewis but they continued to march forward with a focus on the issue at hand. The activities received sufficient media coverage to cause a national uproar which prompted the

introduction and passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This act outlawed discriminatory practices as a prerequisite for voting which provided an avenue for all to vote despite race or creed.

One of the notable moments of the march included evidence that showcased that multilateral and multicultural support for the movement. A sea of individuals of all races stood in solidarity, locked arm-in-arm in support of the cause. In like manner, Masonic leaders stood arm in arm under the direction of Most Worshipful Brother Dr. Corey Hawkins, Grand



Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama and Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, PHA, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc. under the same umbrella of unity.

Re-Enactment—Selma, Alabama

Gregory Smith Jr., 33°; Sublime Prince Christin Campbell, 32°, and Jerome Hutchinson Photography



Most Worshipful Brother Hawkins was accompanied by Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, PHA, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc.; Most Worshipful Brother and Sovereign Grand Inspector General Eugene Anderson, President of the Conference of Grand Masters; and Grand Masters from all American Prince Hall Affiliation Jurisdictions. This show of support most definitely provoked moments of awe from many in consideration of the re-enactment of such a momentous occasion in the history of the United States of America. The keynote speaker for the day was none other than the first black, female Vice President of the United State of America, the Honorable Kamala Harris. Her words summarized the day's events while providing more substance

for all Americans to consider for the future of the nation:

“Our young leaders — well, they are cleareyed about what’s at stake. And in the spirit of a young John Lewis, I know they too will not be deterred, they will not be defeated, and they will not be denied. So, Selma, the challenges we currently face are not unlike the challenges faced by those 600 brave souls 59 years ago. And in this moment, we too, then, are confronted with a fundamental question: What kind of country do we want to live in? Do we want to live in a country of freedom, liberty, and justice — or a country of injustice, hate, and fear?” We each have the power to answer that question with our voice, with our feet, and with our vote.”

With all on one accord, undoubtedly did each person present become moved by the events of the day. Given the charge by the keynote speaker to ensure that citizens take advantage of the right to vote, all left with one mission. Vote, vote, vote!!!





Social Justice and Civic Engagement Committee

CALL TO ACTION: 2024 ELECTION CYCLE

Submitted by Sovereign Grand Inspector General Carl Drummer, 33°, Chairman

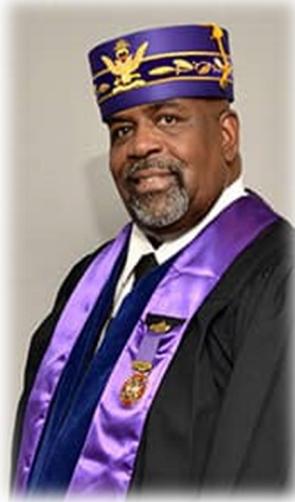
In the dynamic landscape of democratic governance, active participation is the lifeblood that sustains its vitality. The upcoming 2024 election cycle beckons individuals to engage with civic duty from a moderate, non-partisan perspective. At the heart of this call lies the recognition that a healthy democracy thrives when diverse voices actively contribute to shaping its course.

Voting, the cornerstone of civic engagement, is an essential act that transcends political affiliations. Regardless of one's ideological leanings, participating in the electoral process is a fundamental way to influence the direction of governance. Casting a ballot is not merely an individual right but a collective responsibility, binding citizens together in the shared pursuit of a better society.

Beyond the ballot box, there are myriad ways for individuals to deepen their engagement in the political process. One powerful avenue is to educate oneself on the issues, especially in your local communities. Understanding the nuances of policies, current events, and the implications of political decisions equips individuals with the knowledge necessary to make informed choices at the polls. Attend town halls, forums, and engage in civil discussions to foster a well-rounded understanding of various perspectives.

Community involvement is another impactful means of political engagement. Volunteering for local initiatives, joining community boards, or participating in grassroots movements allows individuals to directly influence the issues that matter most to them. In these spaces, people can collaborate, irrespective of party lines, to address shared concerns, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose.

In today's polarized climate, encouraging respectful dialogue is crucial. Individuals can



actively promote civil discourse by participating in or organizing community conversations. These discussions create opportunities for people with differing opinions to find common ground, fostering a more inclusive political environment. Social media platforms, when used responsibly, can also serve as channels for constructive dialogue, enabling individuals to engage in meaningful conversations beyond their immediate communities.

Advocacy plays a pivotal role in shaping policy outcomes. Individuals can leverage their voices by communicating with elected representatives, expressing their views on issues that matter to them. Writing letters, making phone calls, and participating in advocacy campaigns amplify individual voices and contribute to the democratic process.

Furthermore, supporting organizations that champion voter rights and civic education reinforces the democratic infrastructure. Donations, volunteering, or even amplifying their messages through social media are impactful ways to contribute to the broader goals of fostering an informed and engaged citizenry.

In essence, the call for active participation in the 2024 election cycle extends beyond casting a vote; it is an invitation for individuals to become architects of their democracy. By embracing a non-partisan, moderate stance, citizens can bridge divides, foster understanding, and collectively contribute to a more resilient democratic process.

In the mosaic of democracy, every individual's engagement shapes the overall picture, creating a tapestry that reflects the values and aspirations of a diverse and vibrant society. As the 2024 election approaches, let us recognize the profound impact of our collective actions and embrace the opportunity to shape the future of our nation through active, informed, and non-partisan civic engagement.

CHICAGO BOARD OF ELECTIONS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Submitted by Sovereign Grand Inspector General Daryl L. Andrews, 33°

Charles Holiday, Jr., 33° is the Executive Director of the Chicago Board of Election (CBOE) Commissioners and oversees voter registration and election administration for the City of Chicago's over 1.7 million voters, the third largest in the United States of America. For over 30 years, he has dedicated his career towards the management of free, fair, and transparent elections in Chicago, including supervising the registration division through a digital modernization, multiple redistricting processes, voter canvassing, and more. He believes that "if we aren't practicing the right to vote then we aren't really living. The vote is your voice. Stand up and be heard and live."

Charles's work has helped lead to several advancements that have improved voter turnout, including growing *Early Voting* and *Vote By Mail* expansion, increasing poll worker training and recruitment, safeguarding accessible voting sites, and expanding outreach and communication to the many communities and civic organizations of Chicago. He also directs the day-to-day operations of the Board's seven divisions: registration, community services, information technology, pre-election voting and logistics, finance, human resources, and warehouse operations.

Charles is a graduate of the Chicago Public Schools system and attended Harold Washington College and Olive Harvey College. He is married to his wife Angela and is the proud father of four children and grandfather to three grandchildren. In his spare time, he volunteers with charities throughout the city, including the Greater Chicago Food Depository, Ronald McDonald House, and Wrightwood Little League.

Charles' fraternal affiliations extend across all houses in Prince Hall Freemasonry. He is a forty year member of Chicago's [Cornerstone Lodge No.](#)



[91](#) of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois. He served as Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1997. He is a member of John W. Thompson Priory No. 3 which is only allotted to members who have been elected to and served as Excellent High Priest of a Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons, Thrice Illustrious Master of a Council of Royal and Select Masters, Eminent Commander of a Commandery of Knights Templar, and Past

Master of a Blue Lodge. For the State of Illinois, he not only served as Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Holy Royal Arch Masons but also Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar. An Honorary Grand Thrice Illustrious Master of Royal and Select Masters, he has held all leadership and most administrative roles in the Prince Hall York Rite at the local and national level for both male and female houses.

Illustrious Holiday holds over 30 years of membership in Western Consistory No. 28, Valley of Chicago, Orient of Illinois. After being selected Mason of the Year for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois in 2005 and terms of administrative service in Western Consistory, he was coronated a Grand Inspector General of the United Supreme Council in the 2008 Bolden-Fitch Class. An advisor on many committees, he remains active in all bodies including Al Hamid Temple No. 222, AEAONMS, Oasis of Joliet, Desert of Illinois.

With years of service as a District Deputy Grand Master and a Head of House for multiple statewide bodies, he sought to elevate his level of activity. In 2022, Right Worshipful Brother Holiday was elected Grand Auditor of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois. He leverages his vast administrative expertise from service in multiple offices to fulfill the obligations associated with this role.



CRADLE TO COLLEGE PROGRAM:

Submitted by Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Horace J. Jackson, 33rd, Chairman

Conversations

What makes mentoring such a special process?

Consider these three things:

1. *Humanity and humility that people bring with them to their relationships give mentoring its power. Humanity is the human race. Humility is defined as the quality of being humble.*
2. *Conversations between people put ideas and learning into context.*
3. *Support between mentees and mentors provides the strength people need to overcome hurdles and learn from mistakes.*

When you pull those factors together, you can create powerful mentoring relationships that impact people’s lives and careers—not to mention the impacts that can occur within organizations. To make the most of your mentoring conversations and build meaningful relationships, follow these tips:

A. CREATE A RHYTHM AND FLOW

Conversations between mentees and mentors represent the foundation of mentoring relationships and provide a mechanism for development to occur. The quality of these conversations will directly impact the value they have on the mentee’s development. Mentoring conversations should have a rhythm and flow. This occurs by having a set pattern to the conversations that you can use time and again. Each time you meet with your mentee or mentor, talk about:

- *what actions were taken since your last meeting?*
- *what worked?*
- *what did not work?*
- *what you could try next?*
- *where you go from here?*

This becomes a cyclical conversation model that you can follow throughout the relationship. By focusing on the smaller action items, you will progress toward larger goals.

B. TURN CONVERSATIONS INTO ACTIONS

Talking about issues and concerns with your

mentoring partner creates the foundation of your mentoring relationship but talking can take things only so far. To make mentoring conversations more meaningful to personal development, end every critical conversation with a commitment to take a specific action. Here are three ways you can accomplish this:

1. BE GOAL ORIENTED.

Mentees: Prioritize activities and ideas that can improve your skills or abilities and ultimately bring you closer to your mentoring goals.

Mentors: Consider asking “Why?” for each idea or action that arises so you can ensure it helps move the mentee toward their stated goals. This will also give them the chance to express their reasoning and thoughts behind each action.

2. BE PRACTICAL.

Mentees: Attempt to apply new learning or awareness in a common and straightforward way. Take on actions that put the basic principles of your conversation into play and report back to your mentor regarding your experience and observations to stimulate further discussion.

Mentors: Walkthrough ideas with your mentee so they can see how to apply them in the real world. Encourage open discussions on what worked and what did not.

3. BE A MODEL.

Mentees: As you engage in conversations with your mentor, consider how the concepts under discussion will affect your current behavior. If you were to adopt a new standard of behavior, what changes would have to take place?

Mentors: Give honest feedback on your observations of their behavior and, if possible, share personal insights from your own experiences with adopting the new behaviors or techniques under discussion. Show them how you walked this path and what you learned from the experience.

“Tips for Successful Mentoring”

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General Charles Burns, Jr., 33°,
Co-Chairman and Author of “A Guide to Light the Way to Mentorship”*



C. GIVE THANKS

Taking the time to explicitly state why you are grateful to be in the mentoring relationship can be a great conversation starter. It can also help build trust and rapport between you as you openly express gratitude.

Do you tell your mentee or mentor the things they have brought to your life and the relationship? Do you take the time to share specific examples of what it is about your mentee or mentor that makes you appreciate them? Do you express how they have impacted your work?

People tend to feel closer to one another when they open up and express real emotions. That can play a key role in forging a solid foundation in your mentoring relationship. Consider these conversation starters that you can use with your mentee or mentor to begin expressing your gratitude:

- *I am grateful for . . .*
- *I appreciate when you . . .*
- *I find it helpful when you . . .*
- *I value you and try to show you by . . .*
- *Your partnership with me means . . .*
- *Our conversations help me . . .*
- *Your personality/attitude/insights/experience/openness helps me . . .*
- *This relationship has given me . . .*

Expressing genuine gratitude can strengthen your relationship. It can also help you build your character as you strive to show appreciation as well as give you a renewed sense of commitment to your mentee or mentor.

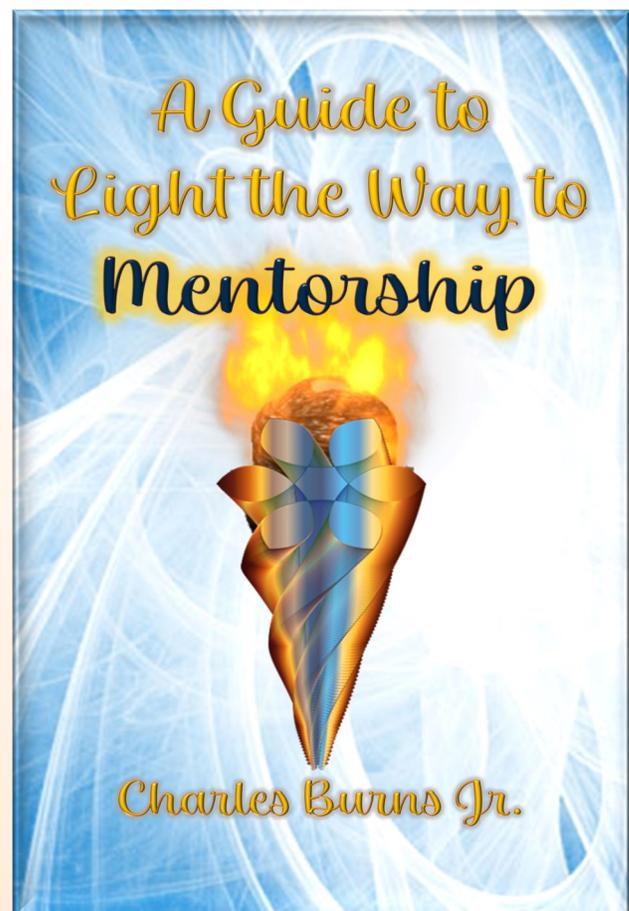
As you continue on your mentoring journey, remember that mentoring is a personal relationship between humans and that fostering better mentoring conversations can help you achieve success.

Reference: Francis, L., & T, S. (2019, June 18). 3 Tips for Successful Mentoring Conversations. Retrieved from <https://www.td.org/insights/3-tips-for-successful-mentoring-conversations>.

A GUIDE TO LIGHT THE WAY

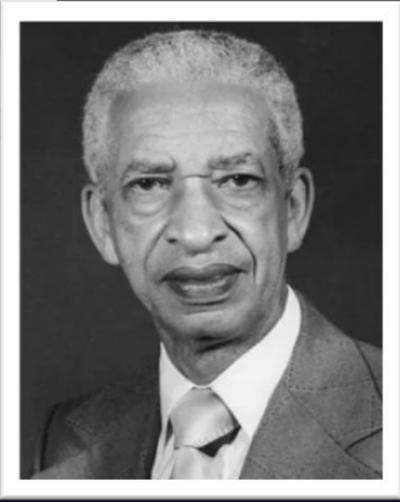
The goal of a mentorship program is to accelerate the personal and professional development of mentees. This is achieved by providing mentees with guidance, advice and feedback from mentors who can develop an emotional bond with the mentee, have greater experience than the mentee, and can provide support, guidance, and opportunities to help youth succeed in life and meet their goals.

This work provides a step by step approach on how to establish a mentoring program and provides a well-rounded methodology for creating successful mentoring experiences. Tips and techniques range from the program design and planning tools to the program marketing and tips for recruitment and retention. It is an all-inclusive guide to a successful mentorship program!!!



FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL

BY SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL



Many of us have heard the phrase, "A picture is worth a thousand words." This phrase infers that pictures may convey an idea more effectively and entirely than the written word. As an avid photographer, I can relate. I've taken thousands of photos at our United Supreme Council Annual Sessions, many of which have been shared with the membership through different channels. A well-composed picture has the potential to capture and communicate the significance, emotion, temperament, and nostalgia of an event or moment in time. Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Illustrious (Ill) Eddie Winfred "Doc" Helm, 33°, was someone who mastered this ability and exemplified the art of photography.

An article in The USC Winter Bulletin, February 1961 Issue introduced Ill. Eddie Winfred Helm as the "Official Photographer of the Supreme Council" and credits him with furnishing most of the photographs reproduced in the Bulletin and for the

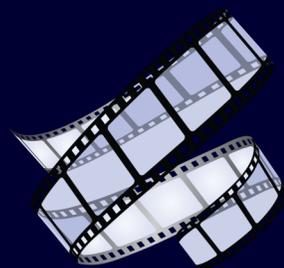
motion pictures of the Annual Sessions of the Supreme Council made for preservation in its archives. He began his Masonic travels in Forest of Lebanon Lodge No. 71, Mt. Vernon, Illinois, in 1933 and eventually served as Worshipful Master. After moving to Springfield, Illinois, he petitioned to join the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc. He became a member of Menelik Consistory No. 49, Valley of Springfield, Orient of Illinois. In 1972, he was conferred the 33rd Degree of Freemasonry and appointed Deputy for the Orient of Illinois in 1985. He served in this position until 1992. Although Ill. Helm took photographs for the Supreme Council, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois (Grand Photographer), and other Masonic organizations, he is also credited with documenting African American life in Springfield through his photography for over 50 years, much of which would have gone unrecorded without him. Additionally, he served as the State of Illinois Official Photographer, Office of the Secretary of State, 1944 to 1992.

Ill. Helm began working for the Illinois Secretary of State's office in

THE ILLUSTRIOUS "ONE SHOT DOC"

EDDIE WINIFRED "DOC" HELM, 33^o

STUART A, LEE, II, 33^o, ORIENT OF THE FAR EAST

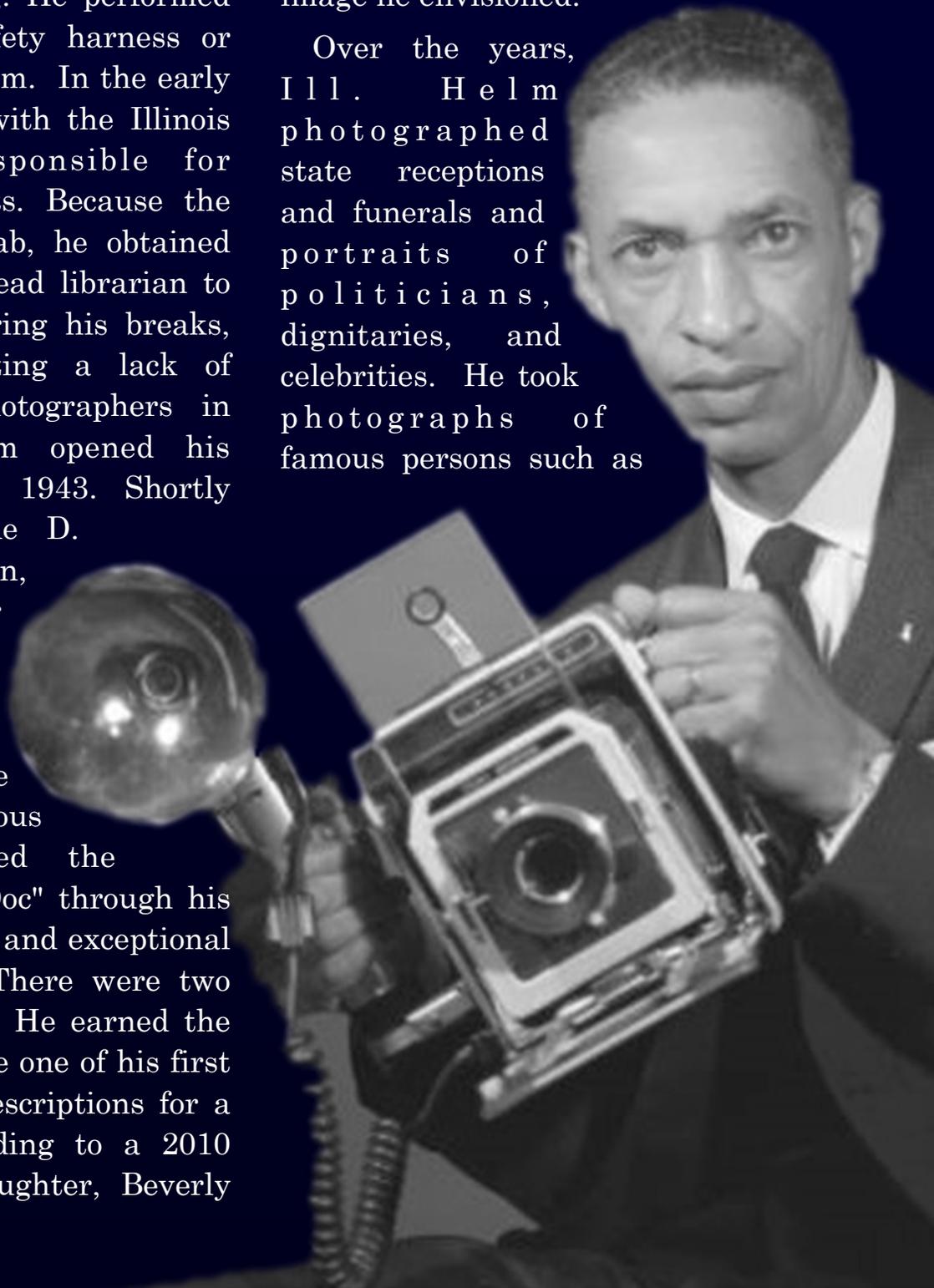


1934. One of his first duties was to hoist the flag on top of the Illinois Statehouse Capitol Building each morning and take it down each evening, which required him to climb to the top of the building. He performed this task with no safety harness or equipment to protect him. In the early 1940s, he took a job with the Illinois State Library, responsible for microfilming documents. Because the facility had a photo lab, he obtained permission from the head librarian to develop film there during his breaks, which he did. Realizing a lack of professional black photographers in Springfield, Ill. Helm opened his commercial studio in 1943. Shortly afterward, Ms. Helene D.

Rogers, Head Librarian, recognized his gift for photography and in February of 1944, he was promoted to Official State Photographer. Illustrious Helm quickly earned the nickname "One Shot Doc" through his professional work ethic and exceptional eye for photography. There were two reasons for the name. He earned the nickname "Doc" because one of his first jobs was delivering prescriptions for a local pharmacy, according to a 2010 interview with his daughter, Beverly

Helm Renfro. Afterward, his nickname evolved to "One Shot Doc" because of his ability to compose photos in his mind. He often required just one shot to capture the image he envisioned.

Over the years, Ill. Helm photographed state receptions and funerals and portraits of politicians, dignitaries, and celebrities. He took photographs of famous persons such as



5 May 1941

My dear Mr. Helm:

Will you kindly send me with bill two full sets of the photographs which you took while I was in Springfield? Please send them unmounted and with glossy finish and the bill for these and those which you gave me.

Very sincerely yours,

W. E. B. Du Bois

Correspondence between W.E.B. DuBois and E. Winifred Helm

Springfield, Ill.
May 6, 1941
9784 7-2-41

Dr. W. E. B. du Bois
Atlanta University
Atlanta Ga.

Dear Sir,

You requested me to send you a bill for photographs received in Springfield.

4- 8x10 glossy prints \$4.00

Thank you.

Very truly yours,
E. Winifred Helm

9 May 1941

My dear Mr. Helm:

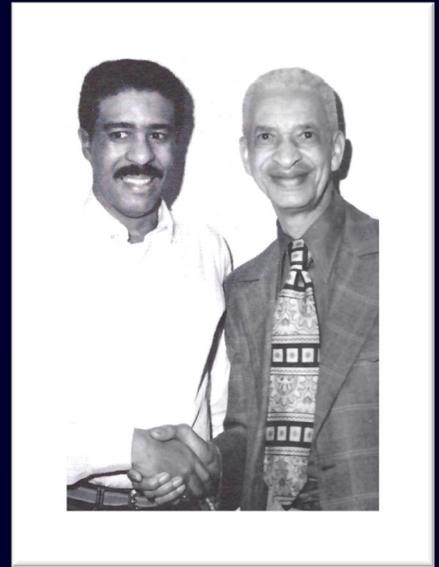
I have just written you ordering two more sets. Enclosed is my check for four dollars for those already furnished. I think your work is excellent.

Very sincerely yours,

W. E. B. Du Bois

Mr. E. Winifred Helm
704 North Second Street
Springfield, Illinois

Joe Louis, Gene Autry, Muhammad Ali, Nat King Cole, Bob Hope, Sammy Davis, Jr., Richard Pryor, at least three Presidents, several presidential candidates, and W.E.B. DuBois. The UMass Amherst Libraries' Department of Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) maintains a digital archive of the W.E.B. Du Bois Papers,



which contains written correspondence between Ill. Helm and Du Bois discussing the purchase of photographs. Ill. Helm was considered a leading photographer in central Illinois and the state's most influential African American photographer during the mid-20th century. Ill. Helm passed away on January 1, 1994, but left behind a great legacy.

As Deputy for the Orient of Illinois, he established the Illinois Council of Deliberation Scholarship Fund, which has aided many people in their efforts to pursue higher education. Additionally, the Illinois State Library and Office of the Illinois Secretary of State maintain his photographs in the digital archive of the "Eddie Winfred Doc Helm Photograph Collection." The collection may be found at <http://www.idaillinois.org/digital/collection/DocHelm/>. In May 2020, the Illinois State Archives was awarded a federal grant of "\$60,178 to support a project to preserve, digitize, and provide online access via the Illinois Digital Archives to 21,000 photographs from the Doc Helm Collection." Several of his photographs may also be found at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

Following Ill. Helm, there have been several photographers that have continued to capture the history and activities of the USC through their lens, such as Ill. George T. Smith, 33rd, Ill. Richard A. Maxey, 33rd, and Ill. Prince Burnett, 33rd. They are rarely in photographs, as they are often behind the camera rather than in front of it. I am not an appointed photographer of the USC; however, I have volunteered to help visually document USC activities, including the "United Supreme Council Way" Street Renaming Ceremony in May 2022 and the "Historic Walk of Fame Garden" reveal in May 2019, and the signing of the

Scottish Rite Activities Interchange Agreement by Sovereign Grand Commanders (SGC) Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, 33° and Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq., 33° of the recognized United Supreme Councils of the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions, in 2023.



In closing, after reading the article about Ill. Helm in the February 1961 issue of the Bulletin, I was inspired to learn more about him and to recognize those that followed, volunteering their time and talent to document our history. Many can't appreciate the amount of work that goes into photography, such as maintaining equipment and software and reviewing and editing photographs. It's often time-consuming, however, if the photograph helps effectively capture and communicate the story, it's worth the effort.

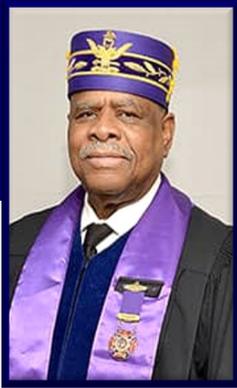
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- *Newsletter of the Illinois State Archives and The Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board. For the Record, Volume 34, Number 2, Summer 2020. "NHPRC Awards State Archives Grant for Doc Helm Collection."*
- *Beverly Helm Renfro, served as an administrative assistant for two Illinois State Senators, Fred Smith*



from 1973 to 1978 and Barack Obama from 2001 to 2004. In 2008, Barack Obama was elected as the 44th President of the United States.

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- *Archives of Grand Inspector General William L. Norman (Photo of Doc and Richard Pryor)*



PENNSYLVANIA

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Leonard Heard, 33°*

ANNIVERSARY OF DeMOLAY CONSISTORY #1

April 29, 2024 will mark the 143rd anniversary of DeMolay Consistory

No. 1, the first and oldest Consistory in the United Supreme Council, AASR, Northern Jurisdiction (USC). DeMolay is in the Orient of Pennsylvania, Valley of Philadelphia. Its history is intertwined with the origin stories of both the Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation and the USC which trace their starts to the various meetings held during the winter and spring of 1881 and the unification efforts which brought together the five separate Supreme Councils which existed at that time.

On April 29, 1881, at the Tabernacle of Revealed Truth, 718 Lombard Street, Phila. Pennsylvania, Emanuel Consistory No. 1 was organized as the first consistorial body, organized and chartered under the Orient of Pennsylvania, the “mother orient”, of the newly formed USC. Many of the fraters who were instrumental in forming the USC were also involved in the formation and early development of Emanuel. Included among that number were Illustrious Sirs:

- **William Cooper, 33°**, *Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania and the first Sovereign Grand Commander of the USC (1881)*
- **Moses Wheeler, 33°**, *second Sovereign Grand Commander of the USC (1881 – 1887)*
- **George Wellington Roper, 33°**, *first Deputy for the Orient of Pennsylvania and Sovereign Grand Commander of the USC (1890 – 1897)*
- **William H. Miller, 33°**, *first Grand Minister of State for the USC and was Secretary-General of the Holy Empire for 28 years*
- **James T. Robinson, 33°**, *first Treasurer-General of the USC (1881)*
- **Henry H. Gilbert, 33°**, *the first Grand Master of Ceremonies of the USC (1881)*
- **Joshua D. Kelley, 33°**, *Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania, the first Secretary-General of the Holy Empire (1881) and Sovereign Grand Commander of the USC (1899 – 1910)*

143RD ANNIVERSARY OF

- **David Leary, 33°**, *the first Prince Hall Mason to be conferred the 33rd degree, and one of the signers of the Jan 31, 1881 Articles of Union constituting the USC*
- **Frederick Richardson, 33°**, *first Grand Captain of the Guard of the USC*
- **William S. Mower, 33°**, *first Grand Marshall of the USC*

The first elected officers of Emanuel No. 1 were Commander in Chief, S.G.I.G. John Brown, 33°; First Lieutenant Commander, S.G.I.G. James T. Robinson, 33°, and Second Lieutenant Commander, S.G.I.G. Henry H. Gilbert, 33°.

At the time of its inception, Emanuel was comprised of Nehemiah Lodge of Perfection (degrees 4–14); Princes of Jerusalem (degrees 15–16); Adoniram Chapter, Knights of the Rose Croix (degrees 17–18) and Emanuel Consistory (degrees 19–32). Records show that at Emmanuel’s founding there were twenty-two fraters.

Ten years later on May 11, 1891, in the annual session of the USC, a petition from the Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation to change the name of Emanuel to DeMolay Consistory No. 1 was accepted and approved. S.G.I.G. William H. Miller, 33° was the Illustrious Deputy for the Orient of Pennsylvania in 1891 when the name changed.

Fraters of DeMolay played a key role in the 1921 building committee that selected a site for “the Cathedral” – the headquarters of the USC. The site of the James Pollock School at Fitzwater and Mole streets in Philadelphia was selected by the committee. On October 15, 1927, DeMolay along with Philadelphia Assembly No. 5 of the Golden Circle helped organize the ground-breaking ceremonies for the cathedral. DeMolay Consistory No. 1 and Corinthian Consistory, No. 5 of Wilmington, Delaware, were responsible for the cathedral dedication ceremonies and program which took place on May 12th and 13th, 1928.

In 1969, fraters from DeMolay Consistory No. 1 and Charles E. Gordon, No. 65 worked under the leadership of S.G.I.G. William Grasty 33°, to investigate establishing a Consistory in the fourth

DeMOLAY CONSISTORY No.1, VALLEY OF PHILADELPHIA

Masonic district of Pennsylvania. Their work led to the formation of Martin Luther King Consistory, No. 86 which was chartered in 1971. In 1972, under the leadership of S.G.I.G. William Hill, 33°, Deputy for the Orient of Pennsylvania, fraters from DeMolay No. 1 traveled to Erie, Pennsylvania to form Whitney Young Consistory, No. 88. In 1981, DeMolay held its 100th anniversary commemoration and celebrated in conjunction with the other consistories of the AASR, the historic milestone of the USC centennial. DeMolay was proud of its record for the largest enrolled membership in Pennsylvania which numbered some 1700 fraters in 1981.

DeMolay, throughout its history, has had fraters who contributed their time, resources and leadership abilities in advancing the Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation and who had the privilege to serve as officers in the USC. Following in the footsteps of S.G.I.G. George W. Roper, 33° as the first Deputy for the Orient of Pennsylvania were other distinguished fraters, including: S.G.I.G. William H. Miller, 33°, S.G.I.G. Henry H. Gilbert, 33°, S.G.I.G. Wilson L. Underwood, 33°, S.G.I.G. Howard D. Gould, 33°, S.G.I.G. Charles H. Polk, 33°, S.G.I.G. Walter C. Beckett, 33°, S.G.I.G. Patrick H. Hughes, 33°, S.G.I.G. Herbert N. Gibbons, 33° and our current Deputy, S.G.I.G. Leonard A. Heard, 33°. There are several fraters of DeMolay No. 1 who went on to hold esteemed offices in the USC: S.G.I.G. Robert N. Davis, 33° and S.G.I.G. Lorenzo Cruger, 33° held the position of Secretary General of the Holy Empire; S.G.I.G. Winston O. Williams, 33° served as Cathedral Secretary and S.G.I.G. Roland K. Lee, 33° currently serves as the Grand Treasurer of the Holy Empire.

Fraters of DeMolay have been active in the civic, cultural and political life of the city of Philadelphia, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the nation over the years. Men such as, Judge Herbert E. Millen, the first African American ever appointed to the judiciary in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Dr. Leon H. Sullivan, renown pastor of Zion Baptist church and founder of the Opportunities Industrialization Centers,

Congressman Lucian Blackwell who served in local and state positions and in the United States House of Representatives from 1991 to 1995; the Honorable Ronald B. Merriweather, Philadelphia Municipal Court judge, Mark Hyman, author, Kenneth Gamble, Musician and Entertainer of the famous team of Gamble and Huff, jazz musician and band artist, Jimmy Shorter and State Senator Sharif T. Street, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, representing the 3rd District – are just a few of the notable dignitaries whose names have been placed on DeMolay's rolls.

DeMolay Consistory No. 1 has remained actively engaged and relevant in the community through its benevolence, scholarship programs and other efforts. DeMolay has sponsored a kidney fund drive to aid underprivileged persons having kidney disorders. It holds on a yearly basis an annual Community Service and Achievement Awards Banquet and a Barbeque/Food Drive for the seniors living in the Scottish Rite Towers. DeMolay has made significant donations to the NAACP, United Negro College Fund and other worthy causes. The consistory continues to provide student aid and support to college bound high school scholars.

In closing, DeMolay Consistory No. 1 is proud of its rich heritage and place as being the first consistory chartered by the USC. It has weathered the many economic, political, civil rights and social justice battles over the past 143 years but remains steadfast, strong and a light in the community.

Sources:

- *Walkes, Joseph A History of the United Supreme Council, AASR of Freemasonry, PHA, N.J., U.S.A. 1881-1998 (USC publisher)*
- *DeMolay Consistory No.1, Philadelphia, PA Centennial Celebration Photo Journal*
- *The United Supreme Council, AASR of Freemasonry, PHA, N.J., U.S.A. One Hundredth Anniversary Souvenir Journal*
- *Many thanks to GIG Walter J. Sims Jr., 33°, President of the William R. Greenwood Class of 2000 and a member of DeMolay Consistory No. 1 since 1984 for his review of the material, feedback and assistance*



MICHIGAN

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Christopher Buck, 33°*

The Michigan Council of Deliberation has had the pleasure of experiencing continuous prosperity within the various Valleys and Camps. In November, we were able to hold our most recent Michigan Council of Deliberation in Lansing. During this time, Education, the foundational ideology of our Orient, was able to reign supreme. Not only did we work on the foundational knowledge of Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, our Sublime Prince Education Committee was able to hold their Second Annual SP Symposium. This event was well attended by our Sublime Princes, led by four Sublime Princes, and advised by our Sovereign Grand Inspectors General and Grand Inspectors General. This year, we were able to see the resurgence of the Michigan Deliberation Scottish Rite Newsletter, which was first titled The Crown in 1974. The Crown publication was created by SGIG Edward B. Darnell, and is now under the leadership of GIG Joseph Wilson. Due to this, it has come back to the forefront!

seeing each degree administered was done so by a Sublime Prince. In addition, their Annual Widow's Banquet was amazing and well attended. Those who attended, spoke on the love and warmth that was shared at this event.

The Cradle to College program, led by SGIG Horace Jackson and GIG Karl D'Abreu Sr., found many successes as well. The program serves the Wayne County area, Detroit, Inkster, River Rouge, and Melvindale. This program has focused on providing resources for children to get scholarships, educational services, home services, and the ability to be prosperous. A shining example of the services provided, the program created a lane for a member of the program to practice their journalist skills on the local radio station. There are many examples of how the program tailors to the child's goal and focuses.



Wolverine Consistory #6 (Detroit) continues to propagate the Rite by having an extremely successful year. They were able to advance over 17 brothers to the degree of Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret. Illustrious Commander-In-Chief SP Edward McIntosh led the efforts, and it was great

Within the Valley of Lansing, Peninsular Consistory #44 had the pleasure of hosting several events and programs that aimed to engage and ignite the passion of the members. One of the major highlights of this past year was awarding the Past Commander-in-Chief plaque, which was awarded to their oldest living Past Commander-in-Chief GIG Willie Dillard, who served in the East from 1979-1980. Also, #44 was able to successfully hold their annual church visitation with Second Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, MI. #44 had the pleasure of having various members of the order receive awards and community service positions: 1st LT SP Dr. Hernando Flowers was named the Oakland County Executive's Oakland Together 40 under 40, SP Daniel Mahoney was re-elected as Mayor of



Jackson, Michigan (he is the first African American mayor in the city's history), and SP Jimmie Wilson Jr was able to help secure a multi-million dollar funding as their State Rep.



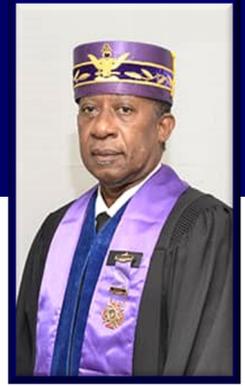
Saginaw Valley #71 stayed extremely busy and impactful within their community and area. They hosted and led their Annual Renewal and Remembrance Service, supported by Peninsular #44, where they were able to pay homage and respect to the Families of their fallen brethren. One of the Families in attendance was the Family of SGIG Michael H. Jordan.



The Ladies of the Order of Golden Circle had an extremely progressive and impactful few months. The Michigan Grand Assembly Order of the Golden Circle Auxilary of A.A.S.R.-PHA honored the Past State Grand Loyal Lady Rulers at a Scholarship Luncheon. They were graced by Guest Speaker SGIG Daniel R. Poole, who highlighted the great work they have been doing since 1982.

BAHAMAS

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Everette Mackey, 33°*



Friday February 5, 2024, the Orient of the Bahamas presented it 2024 scholarship recipient Alexanderia Culmer with a check to further her studies at the University of the Bahamas.

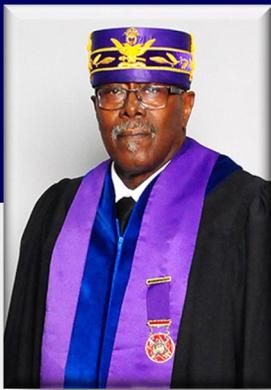
Alexandria Culmer was a part of the inaugural University of the Bahamas Jump Start Program launched for Family Island Students. This program enrolled qualified 12th Grade students like her in university-level classes while she was completing her 12th grade year at Central Eleuthera High School. She is a 2023 graduate who is a recipient of the Bahamas National High School with Honours and is a Member of the National Honours Society. Additionally, she received National Honors for her outstanding BJC results in 2020 and has successfully sat 12 Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) Examination. Alexandria is majoring in Biology and Chemistry with a minor in Spanish to become a Pediatric Cardiologist.



In photo L-R is SGIG Robert Sands, Alexandria Culmer and SGIG Everette Mackey, Deputy of the Orient.

MINNESOTA

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General
John W. Hardeman III, 33°*



Greetings from the Valley of Minneapolis, Orient of Minnesota; during the spring of 2023, North Star Consistory chose to share with you the rich history of two of our fallen Illustrious Sirs. This year, we wish to give flowers to a very important Gentleman of Distinction, as well as his Masonic Lodge; GIG Nathaniel Seton, 33° and Theta Libertus #17.

GIG Seton, who is also an honorary Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Minnesota and its Jurisdiction, was born February 27, 1939 in Harper city, located in the county of Maryland. We know many of you are probably scratching your head or saying there is no such place, but if you set aside your map of the United States and look at one for the continent of Africa, Look for the country of Liberia and you will find that the county of Maryland is located in the southernmost part of the country.



GIG Seton's studies started out in his beloved country of Liberia where he completed his elementary and high school education. Later, he received a scholarship from the Israeli Government allowing him to travel to Israel where he obtained a diploma in Youth Leadership, Physical Education and Sports. Upon returning to Liberia, he traveled throughout the country becoming well known for teaching Physical Education.

In 1980 after receiving work and student visas, GIG Seton traveled to the U.S., making Minnesota his temporary home and furthering his education. He attended National College and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and an Associate of Arts Degree in

Accounting and Business Administration.

In 1990, GIG Seton returned to Liberia and while there, because of his dedication of working with the Liberian government as Youth Coordinator and Trainer of the Ministry of Labor Youth and Sports, the late President Dr. William R. Tolbert, Jr. bestowed one of the countries highest honors upon him, "Knight Commander In The Humane Order of African Redemption". Months after his arrival, he returned to the United States due to the long-lasting civil war in Liberia that sadly took many lives.

This time when returning to the United States, GIG Seton not only made Minnesota his permanent home, he also began his Prince Hall Masonic journey by becoming one of the original members of the only Liberian Masonic Lodge in the United States, Theta Libertus Lodge #17, subordinate lodge of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Minnesota and its Jurisdiction (you do not have to be Liberian to be a member) and also becoming a member of North Star Consistory #14, were unbeknownst to him, would bring the Prince Hall Mason that was in heart all those years ago, home.

GIG Seton is not only a revered member of the Liberian community back in his homeland, but here in Minnesota as well. With Minnesota being home to the largest Liberian community in the U.S., he is well known, loved and most importantly, respected. GIG Seton has been a strong pillar to not only our Masonic family in the Blue Lodge but as well as in the Consistory, especially during his time in office as Commander -In-Chief of North Star Consistory #14. He also served as Vice President of the Commanders of the Rite. GIG Seton has been extremely instrumental and encouraging of his lodge member's aspirations of becoming members of the Scottish Rite.

GIG Seton is married to the love of his life, Mrs. Sharon Bates Seton and together they have seven children, one of which is currently our junior MWPGM, Bro. Johnston J. Bates, 33°. We would like to thank them as well for sharing this truly great, humble and God fearing man with us.

During the time of preparing this information, GIG Seton celebrated his 85th Birthday, Happy Birthday Illustrious Sir; we wish you many, many more.



NEBRASKA

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Johnny L. Cummings, 33°*

The Orient of Nebraska Scottish Rite celebrated a unique Reunion this past November 3rd and 4th, welcoming Candidates from the Valley of Alliance, Hastings, Lincoln, and Omaha, as well as the Nebraska Prince Hall Masons. A joint Reunion with the Prince Hall Masons had never been done, and the Prince Hall Joshua D. Kelley Consistory #27 hosted the 16° and 32°, while the Valley of Omaha Scottish Rite hosted the 4°, 9°-10°, 14°, and 30°.

On February 3, 1990, delegates at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska approved a resolution to extend full recognition to the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Nebraska. On the same day, both jurisdictions pledged “never ending and always expanding respect for the principles and tenets of our fraternity.” In the 33 years since that historic date, both Grand Lodges have enjoyed warm and positive relations, with members joining one another for annual communications, Degree work, as well as the first joint cornerstone laying at the Omaha Home for Boys. A Brother might not ask why a joint Reunion isn’t being done now, but why wasn’t a joint Reunion done sooner?

The Orient of Nebraska Scottish Rite bodies were proud to welcome Sovereign Grand Commander James D. Cole, 33° who joined us for both days. The Grand Commander was tireless in making time to chat with every brother, taking photos, and watching Degree work. Unity was a theme throughout the Reunion. Brethren came from all over to welcome Candidates and to simply be part of a historic Reunion. On Friday and

Saturday, members enjoyed dinner and lunch prepared by the Culinary Masters, which includes members of the Tangier Shrine Divan and several Past Potentates. The Knights of St. Andrew were on hand throughout both days, greeting members, serving breakfast on Saturday, setting tables and cleaning the dining room, and helping anywhere needed. Dan Wellendorf, 33°, SGIG in Nebraska, reminded us through his actions that he is a Brother, working on the stage crew, just as he did when he was Dan Wellendorf, 32°. Nebraskans are proud that Scottish Rite Masons, regardless of whether they are a 32°, KCCH, or 33°, are always happy to work wherever they are needed, and members of all Degrees can be found in the kitchen, taking a part in Degrees, working with the stage crew, sound and light booth, back stage, or working the wardrobe room at Reunions.

The Reunion closed with a catered banquet, with 140 Scottish Rite Masons and their ladies attending. There weren’t “Prince Hall” tables and “A.A.S.R.” tables; members of both jurisdictions sat amongst one another, just as we had all weekend. Our Class Orator was Keith Bell, 32° P.H.A., eloquently expressed the theme. “Life is a unified event,” Keith said. “That is what this Reunion is, and that is what Masonry should be.”

Grand Commander James Cole, 33° closed the evening telling us that when he first joined Masonry, his first recollection was the Holy Bible in the center of the Lodge room, representing that which was most important to Masons. Brother Cole reminded us that we as Masons should always seek the center, symbolizing what is most important to us. Whether that center is family, faith, friendships, or the Masonic fraternity, it is our duty to continue to find that central point in our lives. Members came away with new friendships among both sides, and look forward to attending more Masonic events in Brotherhood together.





UNITED SUPREME COUNCIL VETERANS RESOURCE COMMITTEE

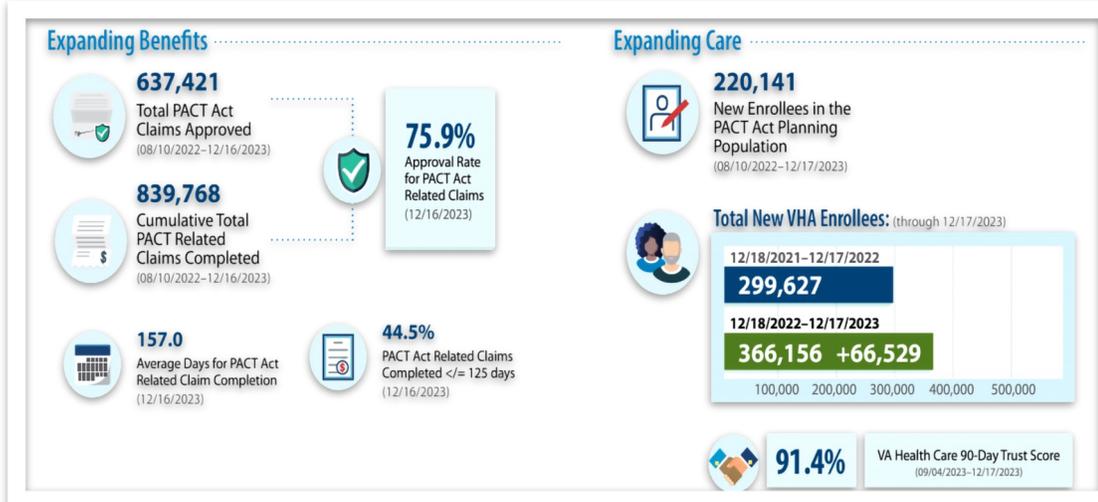
It has been over 18 months since the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act was enacted on August 10, 2022. This legislation expanded Veteran Affairs (VA) health care and benefits for those exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange (AO), and other toxic substances. It is the most significant healthcare and benefit expansion in VA history. The PACT Act added over 20 presumptive conditions for Veterans who participated in Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA) events; added more presumptive-exposure locations for AO and radiation; required the VA to provide toxic exposure screenings to all VA Healthcare enrollees; and improved research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposure. However, how has the VA performed implementing the PACT Act, and how has it impacted the lives of

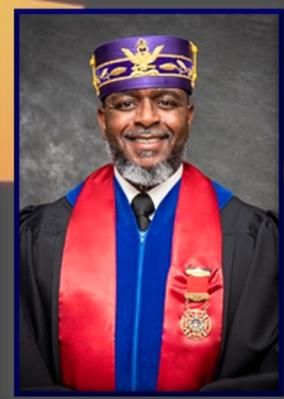
Veterans, their families, and caregivers since its enactment? To address the first part of the question, let's review the VA PACT Act Performance Dashboard.

The VA PACT Act Performance Dashboard is a digital newsletter that shares performance metrics with the public and internal and external stakeholders. The VA uses this data to assess its performance in implementing the PACT Act, an ongoing process. The following figure illustrates the VA's performance in expanding benefits and healthcare to Veterans as of December 20, 2023.

Per the data shown, the VA has performed reasonably well. Regarding the 75.9% approval rate for PACT Act-related claims, the most frequent reason for denial is "no diagnosis" of the claimed condition. For a Veteran to file a VA claim for a condition believed to be related to military service,

the condition must first be diagnosed by a competent medical authority before filing the claim. Other frequent reasons for denial are that the VA deemed the condition was not incurred or caused by military service and not established by presumptive service.





The Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Stuart A. Lee, II, 33°, Orient of the Far East

Hypertension and Allergic Rhinitis were the two most frequently claimed conditions and had the highest approval ratings: 81% for Allergic Rhinitis and 75% for hypertension. Data and metrics help assess performance; however, how did the VA's implementation of the PACT Act directly impact Veterans and their families?

Working in the Veterans' benefits field, I have first-hand knowledge of the PACT Act's impact on Veterans, their family members, and caregivers. I've helped veterans and their survivors submit PACT Act-related claims, which resulted in monthly non-taxable monetary benefit awards, often with substantial back payments.

For example, I assisted a Veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam during wartime and had never filed a claim with the VA. He heard about the PACT Act through a friend and wanted to know if he qualified for benefits. After meeting and speaking with the Veteran, he informed me that he was being treated for hypertension, which is a presumptive condition covered by the PACT Act. However, he also shared that he was diagnosed and treated for prostate cancer several years ago and has been undergoing treatment for B-cell leukemia. All the conditions he stated were subject to presumptive service connection. After submitting his claim, the VA issued a decision a few months afterward. The Veteran received an overall 100% disability rating, resulting in a non-

taxable monthly benefit of \$4078.99 and an estimated \$57,000 retroactive payment. Additionally, his rating qualified him to be enrolled in the VA Healthcare system and be placed in the highest priority group. Within this group, he would not be required to pay prescription co-payments or deductibles for care received at VA Medical Centers. This is one of many examples of the PACT Act significantly impacting Veterans' lives.

In my professional opinion, the VA has done a great job implementing the PACT Act. The evidence is shown in the VA PACT Act Performance Dashboard. For Veterans considering filing a claim, obtain a medical diagnosis before filing. Lack of a medical diagnosis was the most frequent reason for denial of claimed conditions. Additionally, consult with an accredited Veteran Service Organization claims representative for assistance. Doing so will likely save you time, effort, and money.

Sources:

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The PACT Act and Your VA Benefits. Accessed from <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/> on January 5, 2024.
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (December 2023) VA PACT Act Performance Dashboard. Issue Twenty-Three. Accessed from https://department.va.gov/pactdata/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2023/12/VA-PACT-Act-Dashboard-Issue-23-122023_FOR_RELEASE_508-2.pdf on January 5, 2024.



ILLINOIS

*Sovereign Grand Inspector
General Melvin Frierson, 33°*

ALZHEIMER'S EFFORTS ACROSS ILLINOIS

In 2022, the Illinois Council of Deliberation entered into a partnership with the Alzheimer's Association. Throughout the Orient of Illinois your SGIG's, GIG's and Sublime Princes have volunteered to better inform black and brown communities of the resources available in our local areas. The mission of the Alzheimer's Association is to eliminate this disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected, and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Since 2020, Illinois has had 230,000 people affected with this disease. It is estimated that in 2025 that number will increase by 13% to 260,000 people. Contrary to popular opinion, though the greatest known risk factors are age and the majority of people with Alzheimer's are 65 and older, everyone is at risk for this disease. Approximately 200,000 Americans under the age of 65 have younger-onset Alzheimer's disease.



On September 2, 2023, over 40 vendors, resource agencies, food and refreshment courts, a carnival and horse-back rides, served an estimated crowd of over 3,000 residents from the surrounding communities of Waukegan, Zion, Beach Park and North Chicago, at this all day event in Park City, Illinois. Representing North Shore Consistory #91, GIG Raymond Smith, Jr. 33° and SGIG Donnie Merritt, 33° teamed with Mrs. Julie Oseguera, a community educator with the Alzheimer's

Association to participate in this event. We manned a table that provided handouts, charts, resource listings and other valuable information and services with the intent of raising awareness of this chronic disease known as dementia.



The Commanders of the Rite, Valley of Chicago, under the leadership of GIG Frank Jarvis, participated in the "Walk to End Alzheimer's" on Saturday, October 7, 2023. Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is the world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support and research. This inspiring event calls on participants of all ages and abilities to join the fight against the disease.

The team gathered at Soldier Field in downtown Chicago and prepared to hike the 5K Walk Route. With the sun shining brightly and a cool breeze from Lake Michigan, several Fraters and family members followed the trail from Soldier Field and the Field Museum along the pathway towards Navy Pier. We returned via the pathway along the shoreline of Lake Michigan passing the Shedd Aquarium and concluded at the entry of Soldier Field again.

Hundreds of participants were in attendance at the event with ages ranging from youth to seasoned adults. The team from the Valley of Chicago raised \$1,600 to support the cause. This contribution was a grand contribution to the million dollar goal where 79% of the funds collected go directly to research and education efforts.

from candidacy. Secretary, GIG James Lanier, followed due to health concerns. Elections revealed SGIG John L. Richardson, President; GIG Aubrey Barlow, Vice-President; GIG Darryl White, Secretary; and GIG Andrew M. Griffin III, Treasurer. SGIG Frierson, then, conducted a Pinning Ceremony for the newly elected 33° members and congratulated the new officers.

On Saturday morning, October 21, 2023, the 106th Annual Session of the Illinois Council of Deliberation commenced under the lights of Western Consistory #28's. MICIC Melvin Frierson was received, given honors and escorted to the East by GIG Armand Harris, Grand Master of Ceremony. After prayer, he officially opened the 106th Annual Session. The Proclamation was read by the Secretary, SGIG James A. Mitchell and, after the roll call of officers and Consistories, the Sovereigns of Illinois were given honors and escorted to the East. MICIC Frierson received visiting dignitaries including SGIG Charles Bush, Deputy for the Far East; SGIG Marshall Tharpe, Deputy of Wisconsin; SGIG Micah Tharpe of Wisconsin; SGIG Gregory Clark, Deputy for Illinois NMJ; Past Deputy Bennie Grisham, NMJ; and SGIG Robert Meekins, Dean of Instructions for the United Supreme Council. Representing the York Rite bodies of Illinois were SP Joseph Williams, Most Eminent Grand Commander, Prince Hall Grand Commandery Knights Templar and SP Phillip Patton, Grand King Prince Hall Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons. Representing Sovereign Grand Commander, Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, of the United Supreme Council was SGIG Daniel Poole who was given honors and escorted to the East. MICIC Frierson received Most Worshipful Brother Roland Simon, Grand Master of Illinois Prince Hall Masons.

After the greetings and salutations, MICIC gave a brilliant Allocution. He then called for the minutes from the previous Session (2022). After the minutes, the Committee on Scholarship/Education Assistance reported one graduate and nine (9) awardees for Educational Assistance, namely Dorian Andrews, Arianna Bailey, Mitchell Cook, Charles Hendon, Christopher Hobson, Ilesha Nicholas, Quentae Paxton, Imoni Sharp, and

Renaya Woods. The aforementioned students received \$1,200 of which the MWPHGL matched the \$600. The Committee thanked the United Supreme Council for its donation of \$ 1,000 to the ICOD Scholarship/Education Assistance Program and the MWPHGL for the matching funds (\$5.400). The Secretary's and Treasurer's financial reports followed. The Auditor, GIG Ayton Taylor, found no discrepancies were found.

MICIC congratulated the sixty one (61) Sublime Princes who received the 31st and 32nd degrees. After entertaining remarks, he led the entourage of Sovereigns to visit the State Grand Assembly of the Golden Circle and turned the Gavel of Authority over to the Grand Master. The State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler, LL Joi H. Epps received the MICIC and the entourage. After the visit with the State Grand Assembly, the MICIC and entourage returned to the Chambers to receive the State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler and the Loyal Ladies of the Golden Circle for a "Joint" Memorial Service". The afternoon session covered reports by the Consistories and on the various activities and organizations the Orient is involved with. The day ended with an elegant Banquet which highlights MSA Awards, Fifty Year Membership Awards, Loyal Ladies Special Service Awards, In-House Raffle, and Special Presentation(s).

On Sunday morning, October 22, 2023, a grand breakfast with the Deputy was held. The Council held its Annual Devotion Service led by GIG Damon P. Anderson and others followed by the reconvening of the Annual Session. After reports from the Convention Committee, Registration Committee and Alms Club, the names of the Class of 2025 were read. They included SPs Robert Chapman, Yaakov Curry, Eddie G. Frazer, Lathaniel Hood, Jr., Jason M. Jackson, Mariano Lopez, Michael Owens, Vondell Patton, Arnold Ross, Anthony Scott, William Wheatley, Arthur Williams, John H. Williams, and Joseph Williams. The MICIC congratulated the candidates.

MICIC Frierson thanked the members for attending the 106th Annual Session. After remarks, he called for the "Chain of Union" to be formed. After the closing prayer, the ICOD 106th Annual Session was closed at 12:32PM CST.



CRADLE TO COLLEGE—ILLINOIS

The Cradle to College Program is alive and well in the Valley of East St. Louis. Members of Tyree #64 held a session with 4th through 7th grade youth at the hall of Southern Cross Lodge #112 to discuss the future. Led by SGIG Brett Frierson, members of Tyree shared their vocations and encouraged students to pursue college to obtain degrees that will take them further in life financially, or get a trade and skill that will stay with them for the duration of their lives. Teron Mister, an East St. Louis Police Officer, further elaborated on the importance of making good decisions to keep them from visiting him.

HOLIDAY SEASON EFFORTS



Western Consistory extended its long tradition of executing the SGIG Ernest L. Johnson Christmas Basket Program on December 16, 2023 at the Grand East. Bags filled with turkeys, canned vegetables and non-perishable items were given to Chicagoland families at 809 East Cottage Grove and delivered to the homes of families in need and to the homes of widows of deceased Fraters of the Valley of Chicago. Nearly one thousand turkeys were purchased by the

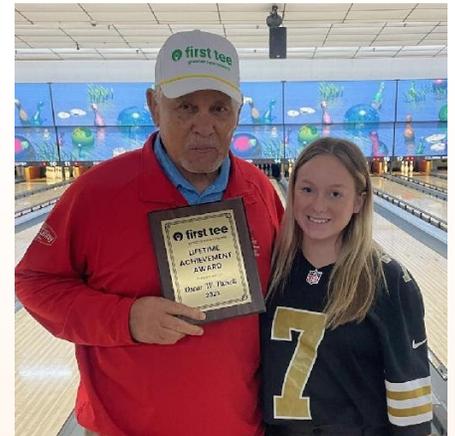
committee under the leadership of GIG Frank Jarvis and his team. Fraters and volunteers including the youth packed the bags which were delivered to passers-by and to other destinations by the compass of First Lieutenant Commander Carlton Smith. Overflow bags were delivered to shelters and churches across the city.



Tyree Consistory #64 prepared 75 food boxes for needy families to ensure they had a meal for the holiday. One box fed a family of 6. Potentially 450 people were fed from these labors.

FIRST TEE HONORS PICKETT

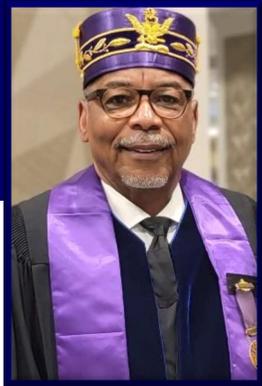
In Jan. 2024 Grand Inspector General Oscar Pickett of Richard E. Moore Lodge #109 and Western Consistory #28 of Chicago, was given a Lifetime Achievement Award by First



Tee Golf program of Greater New Orleans. First Tee is a youth development organization that enables kids to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with a life skills curriculum, it creates active learning experiences that build inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience that kids can carry to everything they do. Pickett has taught the game of Golf to both boys and girls of all ages in the First Tee program. He is still playing a few holes here and there when he can. He just turned 90 yrs young this past July. Congratulations.

CONNECTICUT

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Ronald A. Thomas, 33°*



The 130th Annual Session of the Council of Deliberation was held on November 18th at the Hartog Activity Center at Ashlar Village located in Wallingford,

Connecticut. We were pleased to have in attendance Most Worshipful Grand Master Alfred B. Grady Jr., 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General Raynard W. Huges, 33° Cathedral Secretary representing Sovereign Grand Commander Melvin J. Bazemore, 33°. We were also honored to welcome Illustrious Kevin J. Hecht, 33° Deputy for the Orient Connecticut, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction and Illustrious Bruce T. Work, 33°, Active of the Supreme Council Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

The morning began with the Commanders of the Rite breakfast meeting. The CCOTR under President GIG Alex Miller continues to promote the Focus Areas identified by the Sovereign Grand Commander Melvin J. Bazemore by striving to make a positive difference in the communities and reclaiming of members.

The Ritualistic Opening was performed by New Haven Consistory #7 under the leadership of GIG Keith Pullen, 33°, Commander-In-Chief. He received Most Illustrious Commander-In-Chief Ronald A. Thomas, Sr, 33°. The Sovereign Grand Inspectors General and the Grand Inspectors General were received and given honors. After the roll call of officers and Consistories; Under the direction of GIG Archie Butler, III Grand Master of Ceremonies (acting), MICIC Thomas requested under the Arch of Steel and Candle Bearers that SGIG Raynard Hughes 33° be escorted into the Chambers. He was given his proper honors. Reception of invited dignitaries including SGIG Kevin J. Hecht 33°, Deputy (NMJ), SGIG Bruce Work 33° (Active NMJ), were received under the Arch of Steel with proper honors. MICIC Thomas received the Honorable Alfred B. Grady, Jr., Grand Master of the MWP HGL of Connecticut along with his Cabinet of Officers and appropriate honors given.

Reports were made from the various bodies in the Valley of Hartford and New Haven. Hartford

Consistory #80 elevated a total of 6 new Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret, 4 of which were elevated at a joint initiation through the invitation of SGIG Daniel Brightwell 33°, Deputy for the Orient of Massachusetts. The other 2 were initiated along with 6 other Sublime Princes by New Haven Consistory #7. Both Consistories are continuing to work toward improving the service they provide for the community.

The CCOD Council Officers Nomination Committee Report was presented. The Council of Deliberation elected and appointed officers were called west of the altar and installed for the ensuing year.



The Silver Eagle Committee again under the leadership of SGIGs James H. Gatling, 33° and Floyd E. Bagwell, 33° spearheaded a very successful event and reported that this was the most successful program in the event's history. The 11th Annual Silver Eagle Dinner honored the following outstanding recipients for their roles and service in their respective communities: Henry Fernandez, Executive Director of LEAP Inc., Dawn Bracey, President of Sisters Journey, Kyle Anderson, Former Councilman, Hartford CT; Co-Owner Subway Franchise, Hartford CT and Jeffrey Hunter, Board of Alderman, City of Waterbury. We were also honored with the presence of United States Senator Richard Blumenthal who was presented with the distinguished Silver Eagle Award for his years of service and dedication. A

special gift portrait was made to Past Deputy Edward Cherry, 33°.

Deputy Thomas acknowledged and congratulated both nominees from New Haven Consistory #7 (S.P. Junius Hayes and S.P. Willie Elliott) who will be elevated to the 33rd and last degree at the 143rd Annual Session of the United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry, PHA, NJ, USA, Inc. in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. MICIC Thomas also announced the candidate for the 2025 class S.P. Kelvin Jackson, Hartford Consistory #80.



spearheaded by SGIG Harold Grey 33°, we are following the Program established by the United Supreme Council along with other books and materials. Continued emphasis will be placed on the Opening and Closing of the Lodge of Perfection, Rose Croix, and Consistory, as well as the historical perspective of each house.

The Ladies of the Golden Circle, New Haven Assembly #42 and Leslie L. Duncan Assembly #74 continue to carry out the duties of these two Auxiliary bodies of the Scottish Rite. Both Assemblies continue with their community work. Now PLLR Ngina McMillian reported on the Assembly's participation in volunteer work and donations to local food pantries, food delivery to the elderly and less fortunate families, donations to the Woman and Children shelter in Middletown, donations to St. Jude, Diane's Helping Hands, providing a gift card for Thanksgiving to a local family and volunteer time to a local fire department to provide services to the community.



The Most Illustrious Commander-In-Chief Thomas Allocation was received and accepted by the CCOD. In his Allocation MICIC Thomas emphasized the importance of Connecticut continuing its efforts following the direction of Sovereign Grand Commander Melvin J. Bazemore in "Action, Accountability and Sustainability". We will continue to embrace and improve on his Strategic Plan initiatives. He thanked the Commander-In-Chiefs for their efforts in making these goals a reality and solicited the entire membership to help to generate a process that would facilitate and enhance a higher level of interest and participation by all the members inclusively and an active engagement of Reclamation, and the Retention of Members. MICIC Thomas presented a Plan that specified duties of the CIC, GIG and SGIG to enhance the advancement of the Strategic Plan, Cradle to College, Recruitment, Retention & Reclamation Committees and Social Justice and Civil Action and Projects and Fund-Raising Committees.

New Haven Assembly #42 reports their largest community service event was a "Game Night" to benefit Miss Jaylin Hunter. A young lady who



lost her legs due to complications of sepsis. The Assembly was able to present Miss Hunter with a donation for \$1,610. The Assembly also volunteered at many events including NAACP voter registration, Freedom Fundraiser, Black Wall



Street event and John Lewis stamp revealing. The Assembly has also participated in the TJAY Foundation's Walk for Autism and volunteered at the Sickel Cell

Charity ticket booth event. They have volunteered and donated book bags to Edgewood back to school, Christmas bags to Lincoln Basket Pre-K Classes and goodie bags, bake goods and drinks to Goffe Street Firehouse in New Haven.

Through our Education and Training Program

At the COD the newly elected and installed SGLLR Denise Robertson gave greetings and introduced her cadre of officers and LLR of the two Assemblies. She spoke about future community service and training plans and was assured by MICIC Thomas that the Consistories are here to assist and support wherever needed.



beforehand and was overwhelmed with joy by its presentation to him.



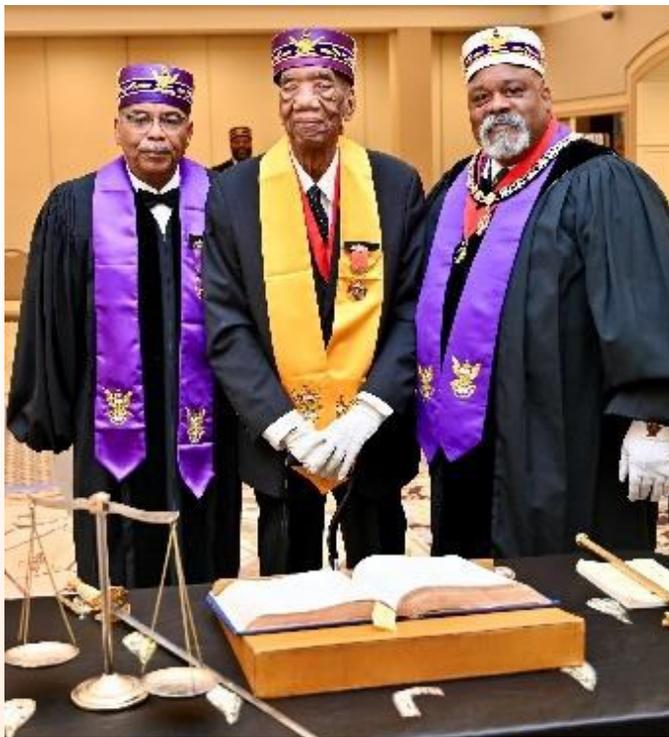
Another highlight of the day came from the remarks of Illustrious Kevin J. Hecht, 33°, Deputy of the Orient of Connecticut, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction who was accompanied by Illustrious Bruce T. Work, 33°, active member of the USCNMJ. Deputy Hecht reminded us of the days when both Consistories worked in tandem with each other through visitations and jointly participating in degree work (in costume). He said it would be a pleasure to see that comradery rekindled.



III Hecht, 33° presented MICIC Thomas with an engraved aluminum round plate as a memento of their unity and commitment. After



remarks from representative SGIG Raynard Hughes, 33° and MWGM Alfred B. Grady, 33° who introduced the Grand Lodge officers accompanying him, he praised the Golden Circle for their good work. He noted that we are all traveling the same road in the same direction together.



MICIC Thomas called upon III. Dr. Rev. Alvan N. Johnson, 33° to offer up prayer in memorial for our fallen Fraters. III Charles L. Robinson, 33° No.80, S.P. Corbin Pressey No.7, S.P. Willie C. Mewborn No.7, and S.P. Frank L. Wright No.80.

One of the highlights of the CCOD was the presentation of the Golden Sash to Past Deputy Edward Cherry, 33° for his long and dedicated service to the Orient of Connecticut. SGIG Cherry, 33° was not made aware of the presentation

No further business to come before the 130th Annual Session of the Connecticut Council of Deliberation, a Chain of Fellowship was formed and after the closing prayer the Session was closed by MICIC Ronald A. Thomas 33°, Deputy for the Orient of Connecticut.



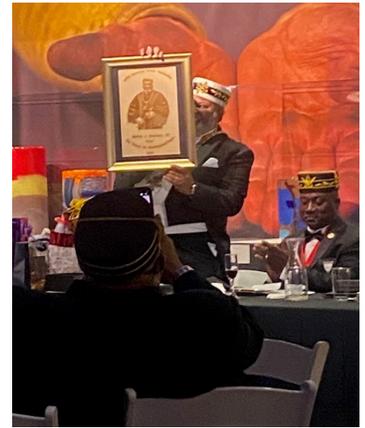
WASHINGTON-OREGON

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Gregory D. Wraggs Sr., 33°*

TESTIMONIAL BANQUET FOR THE ILLUSTRIOUS DEPUTY GREGORY D. WRAGGS, SR.

On November 11, 2023, the Fraters of Capitol City Consistory #106 of the Valley of Olympia, Orient of Washington & Oregon under the leadership of Sublime Prince Fred D. Reed Sr., Commander-In-Chief, hosted a Testimonial Banquet honoring the Illustrious Deputy for the Orient, Sovereign Grand Inspector General Gregory D. Wraggs Sr. The banquet was held at the famous Glass Museum of Tacoma, Washington whose mission is “to ignite creativity, fuel discovery, and enrich lives through glass and glass making.” It was a spectacular affair which recognized the leadership of Illustrious Wraggs in the Orient of Washington & Oregon as well as his other levels of service at the United Supreme Council level.

other than Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore. He expressed his appreciation of the services offered by Illustrious Wraggs to the United Supreme Council and the manner in which the Orient of Washington-Oregon is moving forward. All in all, the work done by Illustrious Wraggs speaks spectacularly for itself.



SGIG Keys, SGC Dr Bazemore, Deputy Wraggs and SGIG Mendoza Southern Masonic Jurisdiction (SJ)



Many came from near and far to celebrate the occasion. Representation from the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction was in attendance to salute the Deputy. Our special guest of honor was none



The Sovereign Grand Commanders

Past Sovereign Grand Commander

14TH SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER OF THE UNITED SUPREME COUNCIL, ANCIENT

Athlete, leader, entrepreneur, professional, and renown Pharmacist, the legacy of Dr. Russell Sidney Gideon is second to none. He was born to the union of James and Elizabeth Gideon on October 9, 1904, in Liverpool, Nova Scotia, Canada. The family of five moved westward over 4,000 kilometers to Calgary, Alberta, Canada in 1912. By 1919, both of his parents had met their demise forcing Russell and his sisters to mature at an early age. Russell found employment at the McDermid Drug Company store in downtown Calgary as a delivery boy while also earning extra income playing drums in a local orchestra. These early-life, character-building experiences served as the drivers for the progress and determination that would define the rest of life.

While working at the drug store and participating in concerts with his orchestra band, Russell made time for athletics. He was very active in track and field, rugby, hockey and baseball.

He played center field for the 1923 Victoria Athletic Baseball Club, a professional baseball team while serving as the team manager.

Considering that he was the only player of African descent on the

team, his ability to rise to the top based on his production was extraordinary. Also a professional hockey player for the Calgary Tigers, he earned particular note on the 1929 team as an “outstanding end”. His excellence showcased a strong work ethic and leadership skills that transferred well into his career path.

In 1932, Russell left Calgary and moved to Boston, Massachusetts to pursue a career in Pharmacy. A student at Boston’s Patrick School of Pharmacy, he found love and new fraternal bonds. He met Lillian

Morris while attending school and they were married on December 16, 1934. He

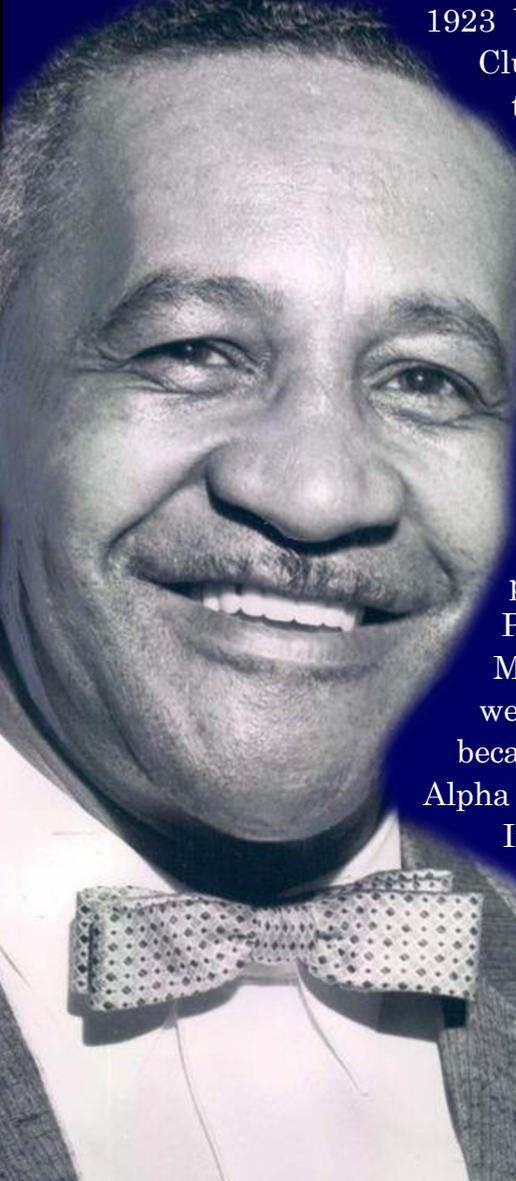
became a charter member of the Beta Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity,

Inc., the first undergraduate chapter in New England in 1935. He

served as the charter Secretary-Treasurer

for the Chapter. In

1937, he enrolled at the Western



of the United Supreme Council

Dr. Russell S. Gideon, 33^o

& ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY, NJ, PHA, USA, INC.

Massachusetts School of Pharmacy after the closing of the Patrick School. While studying and working, he extended his contributions to Phi Beta Sigma.

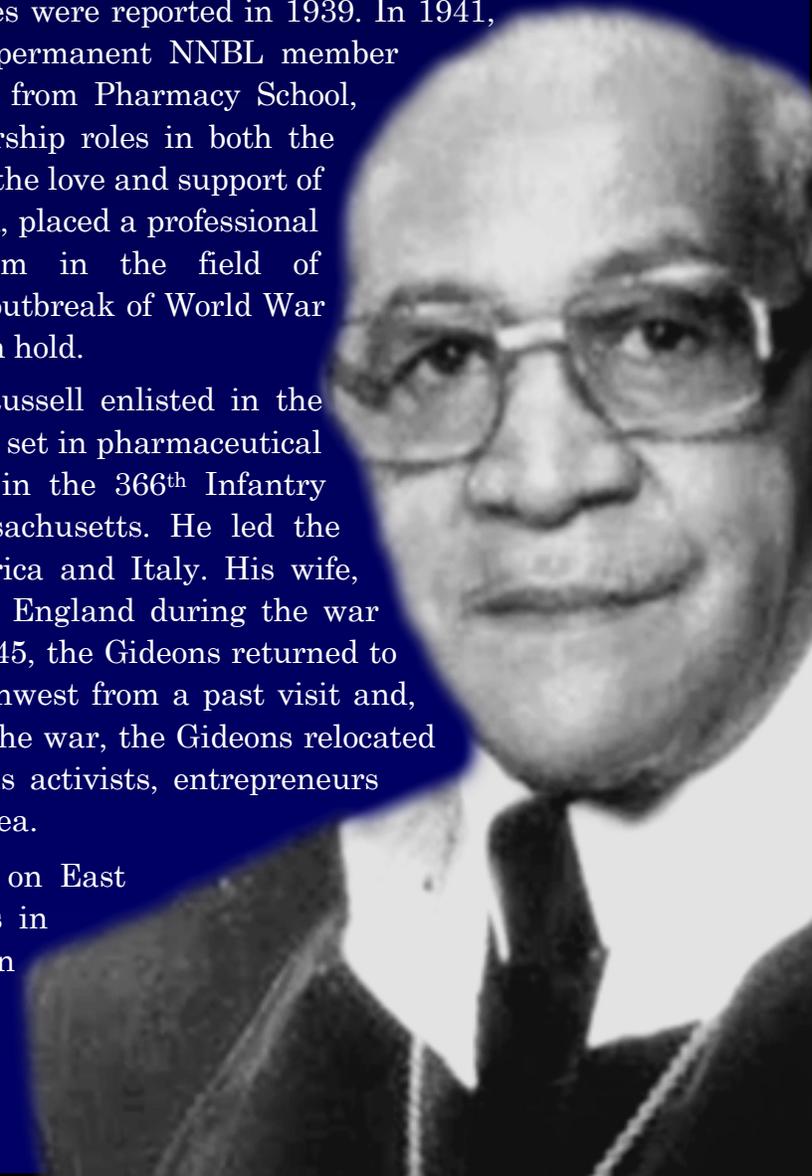
In 1938, Russell was appointed Director of Bigger and Better Business Program of Phi Beta Sigma. The program promoted negro businesses locally and nationally and encouraged colleges to provide business courses for its students. In this role, he extended relationships with the National Negro Business League (NNBL) and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and reported significant strides. In the Fall 1938 edition of *The Crescent*, he reported "the Houston Negro Chamber of Commerce does show a deep appreciation for our interest and aid in that (NNBL) program". Similar reports were presented from efforts in Richmond, Virginia; Nashville, Tennessee; Buffalo, New York; and with the Greater Boston Negro Trade



Association. Greater strides were reported in 1939. In 1941, the fraternity became a permanent NNBL member and, after his graduation from Pharmacy School, Russell moved into leadership roles in both the NNBL and NAACP. With the love and support of his wife, the Gideons, then, placed a professional focus on entrepreneurship in the field of Pharmacy. However, the outbreak of World War Two briefly placed plans on hold.

Like many other men of Phi Beta Sigma, Russell enlisted in the United States Army in 1942. With a specific skill set in pharmaceutical sciences, he was ranked a technical sergeant in the 366th Infantry Medical Corps based out of Ft. Devens, Massachusetts. He led the Pharmacy Corps on combat tours in North Africa and Italy. His wife, Lillian, also served the American Red Cross in England during the war through its end. After honorable discharge in 1945, the Gideons returned to Boston. With fond memories of the Pacific Northwest from a past visit and, also, sad memories of lost Sigma brothers from the war, the Gideons relocated to Washington in 1946 solidifying themselves as activists, entrepreneurs and the premier, social and civic leaders in the area.

The Gideons leased purchased a drug store on East Madison Street between 21st and 22nd Avenues in Seattle, Washington in 1946 and purchased it in 1947. *Gideon's Pharmacy and Soda Fountain* became the first black-owned Pharmacy in Seattle. Russell held membership in the





Washington State Pharmacy Association and continued efforts with the NNBL and NAACP. In 1948, he became a founding member of the Beta Omicron Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma in Seattle further extending his bonds in the fraternal ranks of Black Greek Letter Organizations. He also held membership in Hercules Lodge #17 of Seattle. By 1951, he had not only served two terms as Worshipful Master of the Lodge but also moved up as President of the Seattle Commercial Club.

In 1953, the Gideon's adopted his nephew, Melvin Dodd, to expose him to these circles and advantages in Seattle. By the time the Gideons ceased operations at the drug store in 1963, they held positions on multiple area boards including the Central Area Business League, Central Area Kiwanis Board, Seattle Urban League, East Madison YMCA, and Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Additionally, they were appointed to roles at the Washington State level. Governor Albert D. Rosellini appointed Russell as counselor for the Buckner Rehabilitation Center in 1959. After his term



expired, he was appointed to the State Parole Board in 1963. Lillian had also been appointed to represent the state at the Council of Aging in Washington, DC, in 1960.

More social and fraternal bonds were also established by their hands. Lillian was a founder of the

Central Area Motivation Program, a social work agency, in 1964. In 1965, Russell was a founding member of the Alpha Omicron Chapter of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. They were considered society's cream of the crop. Their accomplishments, to this point, had already become the substance of legend. They were the quintessential power couple of their time in Washington State. Yet, several of the accomplishments that Russell is most noted for occurred during the course of and after his retirement from his professional career.

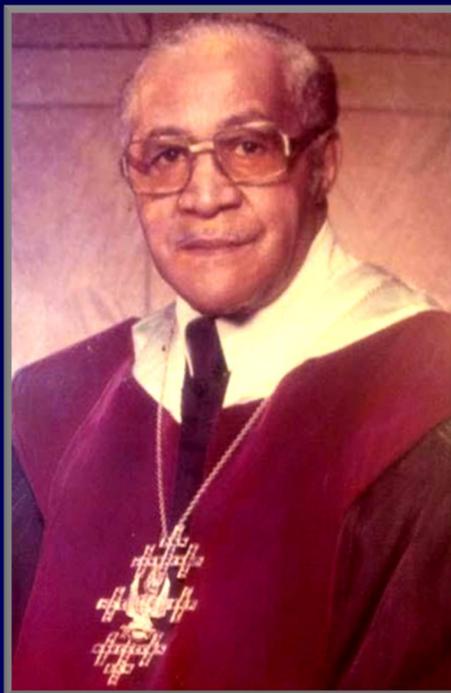


In Washington Masonic circles, Worshipful Brother Gideon had become renown for his profession and his efforts to combat bogus Masonry in Washington State. His reputation among black and white Masons was stellar. These relationships were heavily leveraged as hammers to combat the bogus ranks.



Russell was first appointed to the Clandestine Commission for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington in 1959 and served faithfully in this role for more than a decade. He attacked bogus organizations and handled racial conflicts with that familiar athletic tenacity. In 1963, he orchestrated the litigation strategy defeating claims of legitimacy in a court of law by the Most Worshipful Universal Grand Lodge AF&AM of Washington and the Most Worshipful John A. Bell Grand Lodge of Washington. The courts charged that they misled the public with false claims to legitimate lineages. A similar tactic was utilized in a joint effort with the Grand Lodge of Washington to extinguish bogus forces. Their efforts concluded successfully in 1969 further clarifying the etymology and true relationship of the words "Ancient Free and Accepted Masons," "Free and Accepted Masons," "Masonic Lodge," "Masons," "Freemasons," "Scottish Rite Masons," and the initials "A.F. & A.M.," or "F. & A.M." For his labors, he was styled an Honorary Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge in 1968.

Past Grand Master Gideon was also a stellar Scottish Rite Mason. A member of Prince Hall Consistory #67, Valley of Seattle, he was coronated



in the Horace G. McKerron Class of 1953 after being appointed Deputy for the Orient of Washington in 1952. He served in this capacity through 1965 and extended the Orient with the charter of Cascadian Consistory #75, Valley of Tacoma in 1962. He was elected Grand Minister of State for the United Supreme Council in 1965 and served as the very first Deputy for the Orient of Japan after the charter of Keystone Consistory #85, Valley of Okinawa, in 1971. He was succeeded by Sublime Prince Dale Willis (Overseer) on May 26, 1972 just prior to his elevation to the Office of Lieutenant Grand Commander in 1973. After Sovereign Grand Commander Frank M. Summers declined nomination for re-election to the Office of Sovereign Grand Commander in 1977, Illustrious Gideon earned election to the Office of Sovereign Grand Commander in 1977 and served through 1985.

The 14th Sovereign Grand Commander, Illustrious Gideon's efforts to combat bogus Masonry that began in the 1950s extended through his term of leadership. He remained a steadfast advocate for legitimacy in Freemasonry as well as a leader who worked to ensure clarity within the relationships between the Scottish Rite and other

Masonic Bodies. He had the honor of leading during the centennial anniversary of the United Supreme Council in 1981 which created a journal that has been referred to on several occasions by Masonic historians across the globe. He created the Scottish Rite Hall of Fame for the Northern Jurisdiction and oversaw the completion of the Scottish Rite House in Philadelphia. He was honored by the Phylaxis Society as its Man of the Year in 1985 and by the Northern Jurisdiction as a 1985 Gold Medal Achievement recipient. Sovereign Grand Commander Isadore H. Clayborn, Southern Jurisdiction, bestowed the Gold Medal on him. He travelled to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns on September 29, 1985.

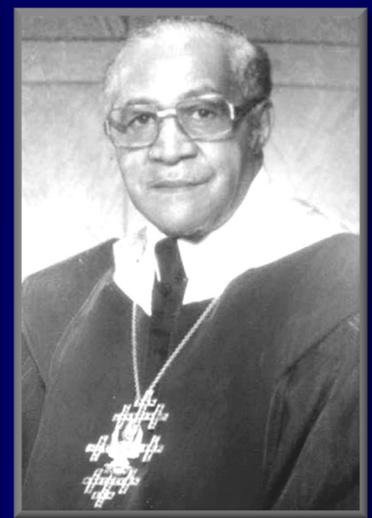
Sovereign Grand Commander Gideon became the namesake of many monuments due to his outstanding leadership. The Gideon-Matthews Gardens (Seattle), Gideon Bell Tower of Mt. Zion Baptist Church (Seattle) and Russell S. Gideon Lodge #78 account for three of several monuments. One of Ebony Magazines Top 100 Most Influential Persons from 1977 to 1985, he left an indelible impression upon thousands and remains a prominent example of a true Scottish Rite Mason and a good man.

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

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The United Supreme Council

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

MEMBERSHIP RECLAMATION

The United Supreme Council has implemented an effective outreach plan focused on former members who were dropped from the rolls for non-payment of dues. Designated representatives from each Orient have been secured to locate and engage former members, and assist those who desire to be reinstated. This jurisdiction-wide reclamation initiative has been established to invite them to rejoin us. If you are interested in being reinstated, please click on the "Reclamation Form" via www.uscnjpha.org, fill in the fields and click on "send message". The document will be transmitted to the RECLAMATION COMMITTEE and a member will contact you. If you know of someone who may be, please direct him to this website.

APPLY NOW!

Start Here
Visit the USC Website at uscnjpha.org.

1

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

REINSTATEMENT FEES WAIVED UNTIL APRIL 30, 2024

A MEMBER WILL CONTACT YOU

Scan QR Code to Visit Reclamation Page on USC Website

Point of Contact:
Committee Chair: SSG Barry Tyler
Email: gtyler787@gmail.com

MOVING CAMP PODCASTS

The Moving Camp Podcasts comprise a new educational component for the United Supreme Council opening the door for continued education on the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. To date, four Podcasts have been developed. Click on the links below to view:



Episode 1:
Sovereign Grand Commander
Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, 33°



Episode 2:
"The Camp"
by
SGIG Stuart A. Lee II, 33°



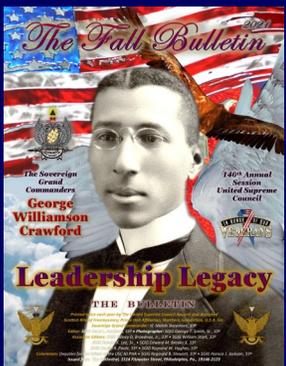
Episode 3:
"Order of the Golden Circle"
OGC Working Committee



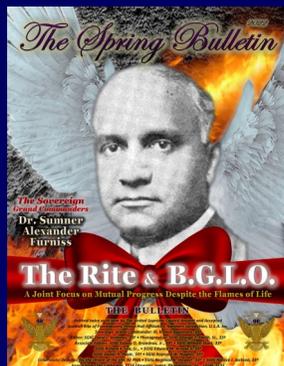
Episode 4:
Protocol & Etiquette at Banquets
by
SGIG Elmer Evans, 33°

THE SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDERS

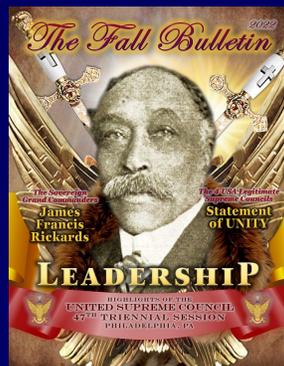
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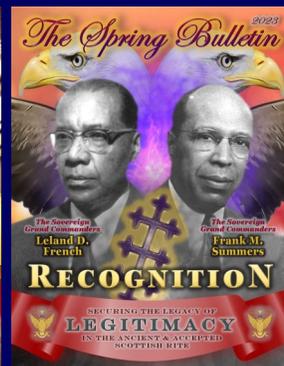
FALL 2021



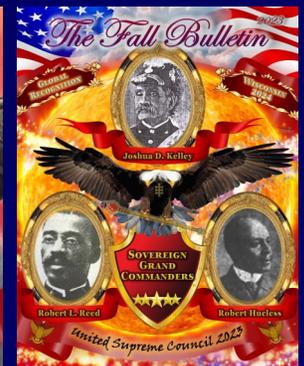
SPRING 2022



FALL 2022



SPRING 2023



FALL 2023



WISCONSIN

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Marshall E. Tharpe, 33rd*

The Orient of Wisconsin is growing in community involvement. I am pleased to report we have participated in several projects. During the year, Madison-Beloit

Consistory #84 sponsored 2 successful blood drives collecting enough blood to care for over 600 Sickle Cell patients in pain crisis. This gallant effort by the Consistory who partnered with the Urban League-Guild received First place in "community service" for the second straight year. Madison/Beloit #84 also partnered with the University of Wisconsin Medical School to help the community with issues associated with Alzheimer's. Sovereign Grand Inspector General Walter Ward and Sovereign Grand Inspector General Jimmie Foster continue to volunteer at the local hospital in Beloit.

Ionic Consistory #70 in Milwaukee participated in donating men suits to the homeless and less fortunate and on December 23, 2023, was one the sponsors of a Holiday Toy Give Away. At least 100 plus families received food and toys. Amidst the lingering impact of COVID in the Milwaukee area, many individuals find themselves facing uncertain times with job loss or reduced hours. It's our unwavering commitment to lend a helping hand wherever possible.

With an abundance of toys and food boxes, we stood ready to serve over 1,000 families and single adults in need. This annual event serves as a beacon of hope for those navigating hardship during the holidays. With the invaluable support of over 50 enthusiastic volunteers, we embarked on a mission to make a difference.

Anticipating the growing need, we took proactive measures, purchasing additional toys and reaching out to inner-city shelters to extend our



support. A staggering \$10,000 worth of toys, supplemented by generous donations, and 4,000 pounds of donated food, underscored our dedication to the cause. Throughout the event, the spirit of community was palpable. Families and individuals were met with open arms, provided not only with Christmas dinner boxes but also sustenance for the week ahead. Witnessing the joy and gratitude of those we served was truly heartwarming.

Brothers and neighbors alike rallied together ensuring that no one bore the burden alone. From assisting with heavy food boxes to escorting neighbors home, the outpouring of support resonated throughout the community. But the generosity didn't stop there—locals joined in, contributing hams and turkeys, further enriching the event and spreading warmth during the festive season. In the face of adversity, the unity and compassion displayed underscored the resilience of the human spirit leaving a lasting impact on all involved.



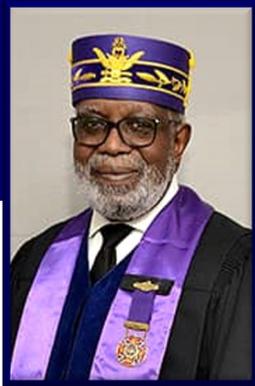
On Sunday, January 21, 2024 in Milwaukee, I, Deputy Marshall E. Tharpe was awarded the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Community Service rendered. In the year 2023, we were

blessed to donate \$5,000 in Scholarship Awards during our Council of Deliberation. The Loyal Ladies of the Golden Circle donated caps, gloves and scarves to an elementary school in Milwaukee. See attached photos. Also, Food Baskets were donated in Beloit. Charity donations were given to Breast Cancer in Madison and clothes were given to Becon shelter in Madison.

The Wisconsin Council of Deliberation was held in October, 2023. Five new Fraters were capped as 32nd degree Masons. The session was well attended and included visitors from multiple Orients of the United Supreme Council.



I am thankful to have a good working committee who is working hard on preparing what we are responsible for with the United Supreme Council Session in Milwaukee, WI May 24-27, 2024. We are looking forward to meeting all Deputies and members of your Orients in Milwaukee. You are all WELCOME.



IOWA

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Osumana V. Cassell, 33°*

The 103rd Annual Convocation of the Orient of Iowa Council of Deliberation, PHA (IACOD), was held on October 14, 2023, at the Cedar Rapids Scottish Rite

Temple, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. During the one-day event, two Sublime Princes - SP Josh Milam, 32°, #46, and SP Montrey Nelson, 32°, #46, were capped after advancing to the 32° of the Royal Secret. The capping ceremony was performed by MICIC, Illustrious Osumana V. Cassell, 33° (68), Deputy for Iowa prior to the Official opening of the 103rd Annual Convocation of the Orient of Iowa so that the new Fraters would participate in the 103rd Annual Convocation, rather than wait until the Annual Banquet as it has been customary to do.

GIG Eddie N. Sauls III, 33°, Illustrious Past CIC for No. 46, opened an Occasional Consistory in due form, for the purpose of convening the 103rd Annual Convocation of the Iowa Council of Deliberation. GIG Sauls III, 33° (46), received MICIC, SGIG Cassell, 33° (68), welcoming him into his 103rd Annual Convocation of the IACOD (PHA), giving him the Sword of Authority (Excalibur). MICIC then gave a brief explanation on regrets from invited dignitaries of other Orients and Jurisdictions; MWGM Andrew Richardson, 32°, MWPHGL of Iowa, was then received. The two Consistories, #46 and #68 - the Valleys of Des Moines and Waterloo respectively conducted their annual elections with the following Commanders-In-Chief elected and installed: CIC – GIG Earl J. Harrison, 33° (68), and CIC – SP Saveno Seals, 32° (46). The Iowa Commanders of the Rite re-elected GIG Maurice Evans, 33° (46) as President.

To climax the one-day Session, social hour started at 6:00 pm, and the 103rd Annual Banquet started at 7:00 pm. Distinguished guests attending were the Grand Worthy Matron, Sis/LL Charlene Upchurch-Taylor, of Electa Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, PHA, State of Iowa and Jurisdiction, Inc. and her elected Grand and Past Grand Officers; SGIG Milton Jackson, 33°(28), and

GIG Gordon Brewer, 33°(28), Orient of Illinois; also in attendance MWGM, Andrew Richardson, his elected Grand and Past Grand Officers of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Iowa.



MWGM Andrew Richardson and Guests



MWGM Richardson, GWM Charlene Upchurch-Taylor, and Deputy, SGIG Osumana V. Cassell, 33°

During the Annual Banquet, The Orient of Iowa Lifetime Certificate of Achievement plaque was presented to a well deserving recipient – SP Corey Royster, 32° (46), for his Resoluteness and Continued Service to the IACOD and the United Supreme Council as a true and faithful Scottish Rite Mason. A Distinguish Service Award plaque was presented to SGIG Patrick L. Peacock, 33° (68), for his Outstanding, Dedicated and Committed Service, Leadership and Continued Support rendered to the Orient of Iowa during the Scottish Rite year. A presentation of the United Supreme Council Benevolent Foundation Student Aid Check was presented to our 2023 High School Graduate, Lydia G. Cassell, Thomas Jefferson High School, Cedar Rapids, IA.



USCBF Student Aid Recipient – Lydia Grace Cassell



*Presentation of Flowers to LLP, Toni R. Cassell
by SP Corey Royster (46)*

As the Orient of Iowa continued commitment to the United Supreme Council, several Fraters are participating on the USC Committees: SGIG Osumana V. Cassell, 33°, Deputy for Iowa – Member, Order of the Golden Circle Committee; SGIG Patrick L. Peacock, 33°, Assistant to the Deputy for Iowa - Member, Veterans and Social Justice and Community Engagement (SJCE) Committees; GIG Eddie N. Sauls III, 33° – Member, USC Making A Difference Reporting (M.A.D.R.), Reclamation Program Committee.

At the 142nd Annual Session of the United Supreme Council held in Denver, Colorado, the Orient of Iowa had notable accomplishments – the Elevation of SP Ike Rayford, 32°, PGM of the MWPHGL of Iowa to GIG 33°, Reclassification of GIG Patrick L. Peacock, 33°, to SGIG; SGIG Osumana V. Cassell, 33°, Deputy for the Orient of Iowa, was awarded ‘The Gold Medal of Achievement Award’ presented in recognition of his outstanding contributions and service; The Gold Medal of Achievement Award is the Highest Honor presented by the United Supreme Council.

Additionally, the Deputy for the Orient of Iowa was successful and diligent in reactivating one of the two Order of the Golden Circle Assemblies in the Orient of Iowa – Edna K. Bell Assembly #77, Valley of Waterloo, Orient of Iowa while increasing the Orient’s membership and participation in both Consistories, Assembly, and the Iowa Council of Deliberation.



Edna K. Bell Assembly #77, Valley of Waterloo, Orient of Iowa Initiation & Reinstatement of Loyal Ladies



PSGLLR, Rosie L. Webb Presiding in the East – Edna K. Bell Assembly #77, Valley of Waterloo INITIATION

The Deputy for the Orient of Iowa and the Assistant to the Deputy attended the Deputies, Overseers, and Assistants 2024 Midyear Conference in Springfield, MA; they also attended the Indiana 110th Council of Deliberation and State Grand Assembly, Order of the Golden Circle, PHA, NJ Annual Banquet; and the Deputy attended the MWPHGL of Minnesota 129th Annual Session, and Prince Hall Grand Chapter, OES 98th Joint Banquet.

2022 ~ UNITED SUPREME COUNCIL

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 Dorothy L. Bodie
 Janice M. Bostic
 Thelma J. Brazzle-Day
 Virginia W. Brooks
 Terri Lynn Brown
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 New Jersey Ohio
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 W.F. Powell #46 Tyree #64
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 1993—Homer E. Gaines
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 1997—Williams-Hinkle
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 2001—Alvin H. Swigget
 2002—James Gayles
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 2012—Robert N. David
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 2015—Dwight R. Johnson
 2016—Solomon Wallace
 2017—Billy G. Hunter
 2018—David L. Holliman
 2019—Basil L. Sands
 2020—F. O. Dobson Sr.

2020—F.O. Dobson Sr.
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 2022—S.J.D. Shook
 2023—Wm. R. Stark
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NEW JERSEY

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Robert L. Oglesby Sr., 33°*

The Orient of New Jersey is pleased to share an account of the activities and programs of The New Jersey Council of Deliberation (NJCOD).

Our annual NJCOD, which was held from November 24 - 26, 2023 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, commenced promptly on Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. with our NJ Commanders of the Rite's (NJCOTR) meeting under the direction of GIG Alexander Perry, Jr., 33°, President. The NJCOTR was delighted to have had the following Illustrious Sirs in attendance at our meeting SGIG Edward M. Brooks, 33°, Secretary – General, H.E., representing SGIG Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander; SGIG Rev. Hermon J. Simpson, 33°, Deputy, New York; SGIG Milton Jackson, 33°, Illinois; and SGIG Leonard A. Heard, 33°, Deputy, Pennsylvania. The Orient of New Jersey's NJCOTR continues to promote the teachings and core values of Scottish Rite Freemasonry for the United Supreme Council and the NJCOD. GIG Perry reported that our Inaugural Summer Jazz Dinner fundraiser was a tremendous success and that some of these proceeds will enable the NJCOD to continue to assist financially with our C. Morris Cain Scholarship Awards program. President Perry stated that we exceeded all of his expectations. We are blessed to have had 164 individuals support our event and raised \$13,120.00 for our NJCOTR.

During our annual NJCOTR meeting the following Illustrious Sirs gave reports from their respective offices: GIG Douglas P. Curry, 33°, Hospitaler and GIG Raymond E. Young, 33°, Assistant Hospitaler reported on the cards that

were sent to our sick and distressed members and families within the Orient of New Jersey. GIG Terence Berry, 33°, Chairman of our NJCOD Youth Mentoring Program gave a report on the status of the current and future youth activities. The following Valley Presidents gave their reports on the status of their Consistories and various charitable endeavors taking place within their respective Valleys: GIG Johnny Hovington, 33° (Camden), GIG Charles F. Salley, 33° (Plainfield), GIG Wayne D. Sloan, 33° (Atlantic City), GIG Nathaniel Cromartie, 33° (Newark), GIG James Mack, Jr., 33° (Trenton) and GIG Harry L. Young, 33° (Asbury Park). The following officers were elected for the ensuing year of office: President: GIG Alexander Perry, Jr., 33°, Vice President: GIG James Mack, Jr., 33°, Treasurer: SGIG Charles F. Williams, 33° and Secretary: GIG Walter A. Smith, 33. After the elections, President Perry gave thanks.

At the adjournment of our meeting SGIG Edward M. Brooks, II, 33° gave remarks on behalf of our SGIG Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander on the work being done by the NJCOTR as well as various programs being implemented here in the Orient of New Jersey. Immediately following the NJCOTR's meeting our visitors and the Officers and Members of the NJCOD were invited to a delicious Southern style dinner sponsored by the Deputy.



- | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
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The Ritualistic Opening took place on Saturday, November 25, 2023 by the host Consistory, Mt. Calvary No.22 under the leadership of GIG Wayne D. Sloan, 33°. After an opening prayer was rendered by GIG H. Grady James, III, 33°, Asst. Grand Prior, GIG Sloan received SGIG Robert L. Oglesby, Sr., 33°, Most Illustrious Commander-In Chief (MICIC) who was given his proper honors and presented the gavel to conduct the business of the NJCOD. MICIC Oglesby then received Active Sovereign Grand Inspectors General SGIG John M. Bettis, 33° (22) and SGIG James G. Allen, 33° (48) with Grand Honors. SGIG Bettis brought greetings and reported that they are here to work. Roll Call yielded MICIC: SGIG Oglesby; Asst. to the Deputy: SGIG William Moore, 33°, 1st Lt. Commander: GIG Jeffrey Perry, 33°, 2nd Lt. Commander: GIG Michael Wiggins, 33°, Grand Treasurer: SGIG Ricardo McNeil, 33°, and Grand Secretary: SGIG James Allen, 33° present. DeHugo No.2, Douglass No. 10. Mt. Calvary No. 22, Sardonias No. 41, Ophir No. 48 and Samuel W. Gordon No. 50 answered roll call.

MICIC Oglesby received SGIG Edward M. Brooks, II, 33°, Secretary General, Holy Empire and guests including contingents from Pennsylvania under the leadership of SGIG Leonard Heard, 33°, Deputy; New York under the leadership of SGIG Hermon Simpson, 33°, Deputy; Delaware: SGIG Johnnie Burton, SGIG James Fitzgerald, 33° and SGIG James Wright, 33°; Illinois: SGIG Milton Jackson, 33°; and New Jersey: GIG David J. Herman, Jr., 33°, Secretary, New Jersey Council of Deliberation, Southern New Jersey. He was bestowed honorary membership to the NJCOD. The MICIC received LL Daphne Roberts, State Grand



Loyal Lady Ruler and the Past State Grand Loyal Lady Rulers, Order of the Golden Circle and the Honorable M.W. Michael A. Wiggins, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New Jersey and Grand Lodge Officers. General remarks and congratulations were given by KT. Daniel R. Allen, Sr., Most Worthy Grand Joshua, Bethlehem Grand Court Heroines of Jericho representing the Prince Hall Family.

The MICIC's Allocution was received and accepted by the NJCOD. The main emphasis of his allocution was on the "State of the Craft". He stated that first he must thank the Commanders-In-Chiefs for all of their assistance thus far. We are still asking our members to continue to promote Scottish Rite Masonry within their respective Lodges and that this year's NJCOD and the Grand Assembly have a lot to be proud of. Our Illustrious Commanders-In-Chief and Loyal Lady Rulers have done an outstanding job during this administration. Last year's SGIG William R. Revels, 33° Class, introduced 19 new Fraters. In addition, this year, we are proud to announce "The Class of SGIG Homer O. Justice, 33°" who introduced 18 new Fraters and welcome 42 new Loyal Ladies into the Order of the Golden Circle. To have success we must support one another and also remember not to act selfishly, it is about what you do for others. Let love overtake any wrongdoings.

The Orient of New Jersey continues to support the strategic plan of the United Supreme Council. We are actively continuing our efforts in addressing three very important initiatives this year which are the Reclamation Program, the Making a Difference Reporting Initiative (MADR) and the Social Justice and Civic Engagement Committee. The Orient Chairpersons for these three programs are GIG David Edouard, 33° and GIG Michael A. Wiggins, 33° and GIG Jeffrey M. Perry, 33°. We thank you for your assistance. We are blessed to have several

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|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Jimmie Ward | O.T. Perry | Samuel Opoku | <u>Wabash #77</u> | William Jackson | Daryl J. Collins |
| McArthur Weddle | Frederick P. Raspberry | Charles B. Phillips | Lynn C. Coleman | Terence Jackson | Tommy L. Denton |
| <u>Saginaw Valley #71</u> | Ira A. Rutherford III | <u>Cascadian #75</u> | <u>Hartford #80</u> | James H. Sauls | Charlie L. Flowers |
| Dennis C. Cannon | Aaron L. Watkins | David Archibald | Floyd E. Bagwell | Loran Smith | Greg E. Jamison |
| Jessie L. Collins | <u>Northern</u> | Arthur T. Broady | Charles R. Barfield | Leroy K. Wright | Stuart A. Lee II |
| Reginald Davidson | <u>Lights #72</u> | Charles M. Curtis | Roland Cockfield | <u>Tri-Cities #82</u> | Bill Lowery |
| Chris M. Ellis | Robert E. Davis | Fred Edward Jr. | Lionel S. Jones | Rev. Gabriel Barber III | Calvin L. Nixon Sr. |
| John Frederick | Clarence L. Garnett | Allen W. Estes III | Eddie F. Langly | <u>Madison-Beloit #84</u> | Daniel R. Poole |
| Thomas R. Gillespie | Edward Mason | Tyrone Johnson | William S. Pettigrew | Jimmie D. Foster | James Smiley |
| Cecil S. James Jr. | Walter Sapp | Harden M. Keys Jr. | Lewis A. Rawles | Ovet L. Hughes | George L. Steward |
| Raymond E. Jefferson | <u>James E. Morley #73</u> | Bernard A. Love Sr. | Benny L. Thomas | James J. Pope | Carey D. Waddell |
| Michael H. Jordan | Robert D.L. Sands | Clarence E. Matthews | <u>Pikes Peak #81</u> | Ralph A. Simmons Sr. | Ervin M.C. White |
| Bruce L. McKinney | <u>Beaver #74</u> | Charles E. Parker | Derrick W. Copper | Walter E. Ward | <u>Martin Luther</u> |
| Robert J. Meekins | Jeffrey E. Foster | <u>Members At Large #76</u> | Arturo V. De Los Reyes | <u>Keystone #85</u> | <u>King Jr. #86</u> |
| Lawrence E. Moon | Frederick Ofosu | Draymond Crawford | Van L. Harvey | Charles H. Bush Jr. | Brian I. Austin |

members working throughout the USC. Thank you all for your support. In closing MICIC Oglesby stated, “to my soulmate and lovely wife Angela, if I could give you one thing in life, I would give you the ability to see yourself through my eyes. Only then, would you realize how special you are to me. You have given me two beautiful children, Tamaika (Jovan) and Robert Jr. (Katelin). From their union, they brought us six wonderful grandchildren, Zhamirah, Robert III, Zaria, Dallas, Oakley, and now little Zeke. It has been a wonderful 43 years with 39 years of marriage.”

The New Jersey State Grand Assembly, Order of the Golden Circle (NJSGA) under the leadership of L.L. Daphne P. Roberts, State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler convened on November 25, 2023 and received SGIG Oglesby and his delegation. Ill. Oglesby presided over the Nomination and Election of Officers for the ensuing 2023-2024 year. They are State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Lisa Gist-Ragland; SGLL Asst. Ruler Nicole Mingo Horton; SGLL Priestess Paulette McGee-Thomas; SGLL Guide Kathie Lofland; SGLL Treasurer Evette Davis; SGLL Secretary Marilyn Jones; SGLL Herald Tony Bethea; SGLL Standard Bearer Tony Bethea; SGLL Inner Guard Tolara Deloatch; SGLL Outer Guard Rachel Lewis; SGLL Assistant Treasurer Jessi Banks and SGLL Assistant Secretary Christine Sales; SGLL Musician Martha Meyers and SGLL Photographer Renee Harris. All 6 Assemblies were present. Their charitable efforts continue to prosper.

At the NJCOD’s Annual Scholarship Banquet, GIG Harry Lee Young, 33°, Veteran Resource Committee, State of New Jersey presented our Second Annual “Veterans of Distinction”. This is the Distinguished Service Medal of New Jersey’s highest military award. This award was presented to several Fraters and Loyal Ladies who served multiple campaigns. They were given the New Jersey State Medals for their service inside and

outside countries within this organization. Award recipients included Geraldine McCullough (SP4/E-4) Specialist 4th Class/Specialist, US Air Force/US Army, Adrian C. Desroe (E-4) Sergeant, US Air Force, Andrew W. Parker, Jr. (E-6) Technical Sergeant, US Air Force, Dale A. Brown (AT3/E/4) Aviation Electronics Technical Petty Officer 1st Class/Non. Commissioned Officer, US Navy, Michael J. Nelson (06) Colonel, US Army JAG, O’Neil B. McLean (DT-3) Dental Technician Third Class/Non. Commissioned Officer, US Navy) and Isiah Cherry (SP4/E-4) Specialist 4th Class/Specialist, US Army.

The NJCOD’s C. Morris Cain Scholarship Awards Committee under the leadership of GIG Walter A. Smith, 33°, Chairman, continues to celebrate the accomplishments and educational milestones of 8 deserving “2022” graduates from across New Jersey. NJCOD awarded eight \$1,000 academic scholarships to Mr. Jibril Barksdale, Ms. Annyah V. Cox, U.S.C. Award: Ms. Mya Watson, Mr. Henry Grady James, IV, Ms. Kelly J. McCain, Misa K. King, SGIG Herbert M. Douglas, 33° Award: Mr. Jackson S. Groff. The NJCOR was able assist these students financially as they matriculated into schools of higher learning and Technical Schools.

The NJCOR Bulletin continues to feature messages from the Office of the Deputy; historical and health awareness items; Scottish Rite



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|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Mark C. Burford | Charles F. Brewton | Samuel B. Gaines | <u>Mount Royal #97</u> | Ronald L. Smalls | Hardy Johnson |
| Gregory Carlton | Lee V. Henderson | Clyde Johnson | Headley Lewis | Arthur O. Wade | Jon. L. Patterson Sr. |
| Clifford E. DeBaptiste | Namon McWilliams | Raymond Smith Jr. | <u>Mount Royal #97</u> | Ernest Walthall | <u>Joseph I. Staton #103</u> |
| Kenyatta Donley | <u>Springfield #89</u> | <u>Balthasar #92</u> | Earlie Albright | Thomas J. Wheeler | Larry Brownlee |
| Elmer M. Evans | Robert C. Jackson | George M. Barmore Sr. | Russell Boston | <u>Spain Military #99</u> | Edward J. Craft |
| Jerry Ford Sr. | Richard Scroggins Jr. | William H. Bernel | General Cherry | Jimmie T. Brown | Michael E. Estelle |
| Gerald Hunley Sr. | Manfred Slaughter | Wayne Brown | James Eberhart | James E. Dobbins | Warren Jamison |
| Tahir A. Isaac | <u>Albany #90</u> | Freddie Walker Sr. | James L. Frank | Marques A. Jones | W. Michael Murphy |
| Steven Lawrence | James Boone | <u>Ben Lomond #94</u> | James N. Fuller | Levert Lane | Ronald U. Muse |
| Maurice McGown | Lowendell Foulks | Charles Jefferson | Robert Harris | <u>Eleuthera #100</u> | Kenneth Williams |
| Warren Montague | El-Wise Noisette | Harry J. Lee | Clarence W. High III | Claudius B. Bethel | <u>Marquette-Joliet #104</u> |
| John H. Taylor | Dorsey M. Whitehead | <u>Karamursel #96</u> | Leonard W. LaRue | Everette Z. Mackey | Neal Carson |
| Steven O. Wells | <u>North Shore #91</u> | Jessie Hubbard | Lynn C. Nickolas Kr. | <u>G.M. Solomons #101</u> | Chester A. Douglas |
| <u>Whitney M. Young #88</u> | Robert L. Baker | Durand Phillips | Dennis T. Rollins | James V. Biven | Sherwood Edwards |
| James H. Brewster | Curtis L. Dorsey Sr. | Theodore M. Williams | Johnnie L. Sanders | Devian D. Carter | Andrew M. Griffin III |

Enlightenment; acknowledgements and accomplishments of the NJCOR; as well as other Scottish Rite philanthropic, charitable endeavors and activities. Highlights of the Fall – November 2023 Volume 5 / Issue 1 – include a message from the SGIG Oglesby, Deputy; “Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret”; C. Morris Cain 2023 Scholarship Award Recipients; “The Tetragrammaton”; “In Memoriam” in honor of our 2023 Deceased Brethren; “Illustrious Thornton Andrew Jackson, 33, Sovereign Grand Commander”; “Scottish Rite Crossword Puzzle”.

Elected Officers for 2024 of the NJCOD are 1st Lieutenant Commander: GIG Jeffrey M. Perry, 33°, 2nd Lieutenant Commander: GIG Michael A. Wiggins, 33°, Grand Minister of State: GIG Raymond E. Smith, 33°, Grand Treasurer: SGIG Ricardo McNeil, 33°, and Grand Secretary: SGIG James G. Allen, 33°. To close-out our Annual Session, SGIG Brooks, II, 33° and M.W. Clyde H. Horton, Jr., Grand Master brought greetings and gave remarks on behalf of their respective offices.

On February 24, 2024 hosted the 14th Annual Appreciation Luncheon honoring SGIG Oglesby, Deputy, for his commitment and dedication to Scottish Rite Freemasonry. The Orient was so very thankful to have the following invited guests to fellowship with us at this auspicious occasion: SGIG Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, Sovereign Grand Commander; SGIG Roland K. Lee, Treasurer General; SGIG Edward M. Brooks, II, Secretary General-Holy Empire; SGIG Raynard W. Hughes, Cathedral Secretary, SGIG Douglas R. Policastro, Deputy for New Jersey (NMJ), SGIG Larry S. Plasket, Active (NMJ), SGIG Roy Mays, SGIG Malcom Harris representing SGIG Leonard Heard,

SGIG Rev. Hermon J. Simpson, 33° (NY), SGIG Johnie Burton representing: SGIG James E. Scott, and SGIG Steven O. Wells, 33°, State President, PENNCOD.

At the NJCOD Annual Appreciation Luncheon SGIG Oglesby presented the following Certificate of Appreciation and Service Awards to the following Loyal Ladies, a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Grand Inspectors General and Subline Princes: Deputy’s Certificates and Awards to the Assembly Secretaries—Certificates of Appreciation: L.L. Donna D. Robinson, PLLR (No. 9), L.L. Gloria Ellzy, PSGLLR (No. 16), L.L. Christine Sales, PLLR (No. 27), L.L. Denise Harris, PLLR (No. 33), L.L. Paulette McGee-Thomas, PLLR (No. 44) and L.L. Sarah L. Elder, PLLR (No. 83). Deputy’s “Service Award 2024”: GIG Ronald J. Blakney, 33°, GIG Harry L. Young, 33°, GIG Raymond E Young, 33°, “SGIG Darrow A. Hill, 33° Distinguish Service Awards 2024SP Richard Pernell, 32° (No.2), SP Daryl A. Clarke, 32° (No.10), GIG Corbin Hare, 33° (No.22), SP Shawn Samuel, 32° (No.41), SGIG Eubert G. Brown, 33°(No.48) and GIG Milton G. Morris, 33°(No.50).

Necrology – Memorial Service—Dead? No, not dead. In our Mystic Brotherhood we Live Forever - Our Union is Eternal. The Scottish Rite Ring Ceremony was exemplified by Ophir Consistory No. 48, Valley of Trenton.

In closing as the Most Illustrious Commander-In-Chief, I thank “God” for all of the support that has been given to my Office as we continue to serve the New Jersey Council of Deliberation. I Pray that our heavenly father will bless each and every one of you, ‘Keep your Hands in God’s Hand’. Remember that God loves you and so do I. To God be the Glory.

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|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| Anthony Griffin Sr. | Gregory D. Wraggs | Harry Jernigan | Darryl J. Green | Robert D. Roundtree | <u>Courtney P. Houston Jr. #119</u> |
| Walter S. House | <u>N.W. Thatcher #107</u> | Glenn A. Marshall Sr. | Morris C. Shanks | <u>Ararat #115</u> | <u>Houston Jr. #119</u> |
| Carlos D. Matlock | Lonnie L. Crockett | Glen R. Richard | Jimmie L. Taylor Sr. | Tyrone Cook | George T. Bennett |
| William J. Robinson | Joe Mario Davis | <u>John J. Story #111</u> | <u>Eureka #113</u> | Larry D. Jenkins | Johnie A. Burton Jr. |
| Clarence Williams Jr. | Robert B. Harris | Kenneth E. Alston Jr. | Anthony Acosta | Enrique John | Robert S. Cooper Jr. |
| Floyd Woods II | Darryl C. White | Lascelles Cuff | Kevin Bryant | Robert L. Revels Sr. | Kenneth A. Davis |
| Floyd Woods Sr. | Napoleon Wormly Jr. | Rodney Eggleston | Dennis R. Randall | Wallace B. Yellock | James Gladney Sr. |
| <u>Capital City #106</u> | <u>Earl W. Barrow #109</u> | Steven M. Harding | Alberto R. Sanabria | <u>B.T. Alexander #117</u> | Raymond Guy Sr. |
| Lester L. Dickson | Lomax Elder | Miles G. Hicks | Ellis W. Short | Robert G. Janey | Carl Ray |
| Ian Dume’ | Claude P. Jackman | Dwayne E. Thomas | Garry Tyler | James Lavender | Lewis F. Williams |
| James E. Moore Sr. | Adrien Zachariah | <u>Homer E. Gaines #112</u> | Richard Vega | Howard L. Martin | |
| Larry E. Opher | <u>Jerome Lipscomb #110</u> | Walter M. Brame | Carl Williams | <u>Everett #118</u> | |
| Carl V. Ross | Albert L. Anderson Jr. | Tony O. Dennis | <u>John C. Logan #114</u> | Thomas V. Bowers | |
| Henry C. Sheegog | Clifton Claybrooks Jr. | Norris Lee Ellis | Rinza C. Burton Jr. | Glibert E. McClary Sr. | |
| Clarence Williams | Benjamin V. Glenn Jr. | | James B. Gilbert III | Harris R. Smith | |

Donate to the USC Benevolent Fund TODAY!!!



NEW YORK

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Rev. Hermon J. Simpson, 33°*

The 98th annual session of the New York State Council of Deliberation was held on October 21st, 2023, in Binghamton, N.Y., in person with the Illustrious Deputy SGIG Rev. Hermon J. Simpson 33° presiding. He received the Grand Minister of State for the United Supreme Council A.A.S.R., PHA, S.G.I.G. Grady Edge 33°, who was representing the Sovereign Grand Commander SGIG Dr. Melvin J Bazemore 33°. The Honorable Most Worshipful Gregory Robinson Smith Jr., Grand Master of Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of NY, was also received into the session.

It was a true pleasure and honor for me and for the Orient of New York to receive our former deputy, SGIG Grady Edge, Grand Minister of State to the United Supreme Council, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, PHA, NJ, U.S.A. Inc. The annual banquet of the New York State Council of Deliberation was renamed the Grady Edge Award banquet. A medal was created and named the Grady Edge Achievement Award, which was bestowed on selected members of the Orient who have exhibited outstanding service and dedication. A second award medal was created and named the Deputy's Service Award, which was also bestowed upon various members of the Orient who have committed time and service to the Office of the Deputy.



The initiatives which were stated in our last publication of the bulletin have been achieved. I am happy to say the first meeting of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General's Counsel was held at the COD. A secondary meeting was held on January 21st via Zoom. Another initiative that was accomplished was the formation of the Past Commanders-in-Chief Council, which now serves as a mentor program for line officers in the consistories and will be functioning at the center of

the Leadership Academy, to be open this spring.

We had close to 300 attendees at the N.Y. C.O.D. Our overall State membership increased by 85 with the initiation of 85 Sublime Princes. We were also able to reinstate approximately 15 members. Our motto is "Change the Mindset in Order to Change the Culture," and in doing so, we honor our past as we boldly step into our future and a new era in our Orient.

King David Consistory No. 3 of the Valley of New York and Orient of New York has had a very productive and successful year. Special thanks to the S.G.I.G Rev. Hermon J. Simpson, 33°, the Illustrious Deputy for the Orient, for his guidance, support, and leadership and to the Commander in Chief, Hondri Spears, for his relentless commitment and dedication.



On April 29, 2023, King David hosted the first Heritage Founders Day event. This momentous affair brought together the three oldest Consistories in the Prince Hall Affiliated Scottish Rite of Freemasonry (NJ), DeMolay No. 1, DeHugo No. 2, and King David No.3. In attendance that day was the Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore 33°, The Secretary General of the Holy Empire SGIG Edward Brooks 33°, MW Gregory Roberson Smith Jr. 33° Grand Master - MWPHGLNY, MW Anthony Wiggins Grand Master - MWPHGMNJ, the ILL Deputy of the Orient of New York SGIG Hermon Simpson 33° and his counterparts from Pennsylvania SGIG Lenard Heard 33° And New Jersey SGIG Robert L. Oglesby 33°, SGIG John J Phillips 33°, Commander-In-Chief Lucius Newman DeMolay Consistory No.1 and Commander-In-Chief Darald Stancil De Hugo Consistory No.2.

On July 22, 2023, King David hosted all three downstate Consistories to initiate and perform

degree work for 68 new fraters. This work was done with Long Island Consistory No. 61 and Pentecost Consistory No. 98. Out of the 68 initiates, King David welcomed 23 new fraters.

The members of King David continue to support the City Harvest food distribution efforts at our Grand East twice monthly. It now serves hundreds of families. Members of King David support this community service project regularly.

For many years, King David has supported the educational goals of young men and women in NYC by providing a College Scholarship/Assistance each year. Due to Covid, this initiative has been dormant. The members of King David are proud to announce that the fundraising arm of this community service project was revitalized. The Committee, led by CIC SP Hondri Spears, organized a fundraiser raffle in which members donated all of the prizes and raised the necessary seed money to make its first Scholarship Award in 2025 for the first time in almost four years.

On September 23, 2023, the Scottish Rite Degrees were conferred upon the Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor of NYC, and Edward Pagan, the Chief of Police of NYC, at Gracie Mansion. The Degree work was performed by SGIG Rev. Hermon J. Simpson, 33°, Deputy; GIG Sandino A. Sanchez, 33°, President for the Commanders of the Rite; and GIG Lathan Franks, 33°, Executive Assistant.



From October 20th to October 22nd of 2023, King David Consistory hosted the Annual Commanders of the Rite in the State of New York. Presiding over the deliberations was our very own SGIG Rev. Hermon J. Simpson, 33°, Deputy, a member of King David. This is worth mentioning because it was hosted by King David and our Deputy's first COD and the first in-person COD after COVID-19. We were glad to be out and, in person, to celebrate our fraternal bonds. The

ritualistic opening was performed very well. The CIC and the officers of King David should be commended for their excellent work. The committee managed to fill the registration bags with donations and commemorative pins.

At this COD, members of King David hold several positions including SGIG Willie E. Jackson, Ill. Grand Secretary; GIG Clinton L. Jones Ill. Assistant Grand Secretary; GIG Selvin R. Osbourne, Ill. Grand Treasurer; GIG Samuel Swinson, and Ill. GM of Ceremonies. Members have also been elected to the NYS Commanders of the Rite positions including GIG Sandino A Sanchez, President; and GIG Selvin R Osbourne, Treasurer. In 2024, King David made history by electing the first legally blind person, Sublime Prince James W. Goodie, as the Commander in Chief. - *GIG Sandino Sanchez, 33°*



Bison Consistory No. 29 held a scholarship banquet. It contributed over \$700 to the Youth Group Gems and Stems, which SGIG organized by Stanley Mack and his wife, Deborah Mack. We also supported the Buffalo Youth and Young Adult Choral Society, a Gospel Singing Group in which GIG Donald Howard is Treasurer and his wife, Lou Etta Howard, is the Musical Director.

SGIG Adam Sumlin has a Blessing in A Backpack for Children at St. Mary's School for the Deaf. This program provides books and food to 50 students every Friday during the school year for them to take home over the weekend and return on Monday to be refilled on the following Friday.

Bison Consistory is financially sound and has an officer training meeting each Saturday before our meetings. This is to ensure that our members are prepared for possible advancement. We are currently exploring the idea of holding some of our meetings in Rochester, New York, where we have

members to split the travel between our members in Buffalo and Rochester. This could also help to recruit new members. We are actively seeking men who we feel would contribute to our organization.

Bison also supports members of our consistory who are doing work to contribute to our community. GIG Thomas Beauford is the current president of the Buffalo Urban League. GIG Oswald Mestres Jr. is a Senior Supervisor at Buffalo City Hall and has received numerous awards for his work in the City of Buffalo and throughout New York State. SGIG Dr. Adam B. Sumlin has conducted several clinics on prostate cancer throughout the community. Sublime Prince Samuel Walker has been appointed as the contact person for all Veterans in New York State.

As **Utica Consistory No. 45** continues with the Grady Edge Reading Program, the movement is to extend this program throughout the valley. Schools in the southern tier of New York have been contacted to participate in the reading program. With the expansion, the program will be able to reach more students. We are still in the process of securing more supplies. Cedric T. Bolton, our coordinator, is doing an outstanding job.

On Thursday, January 25th, 2024, the election and installation of officers for **Long Island Consistory No. 61** were performed by Sovereign Grand Inspector General Rev. Hermon J. Simpson. Sean Gill was installed as Commander-in-Chief, Joe Louis McCray as Most Wise and Robert Lee as Thrice Potent Master. Sublime Princes Bobby Brinson was appointed Secretary and Caesar Caro as Treasurer, with Eduardo Rodriguez succeeding Rev. George Jackson as Vice President of the Commanders of the Rite. The enthusiasm by this new line of officers, as well as the Fraters in attendance, is a testament that we will continue to work and grow together not only as brothers but collectively build our ritualistic and charitable works as well as the rich legacy of Long Island 61.

For years, **Albany Consistory No. 90** has laid dormant, not having enough members to open a regular meeting. In the Spring of 2023, Albany was given a spark. With that spark, there became a flame. The new energy was brought in with our new Commander-in-Chief Danny Melton Sr. With this energy and reaching out to the Deputy, a plan was put together to resurrect Albany Consistory.

First, we had to find a place to meet. Second, we had to tell the members it was a new day. This was done by our 1st Lieutenant, David (Rahteik) Miller. He crafted a plan to reclaim members who had not been with the Consistory for years. This was a total of seven. It was not what we were looking for, but we were happy that we reclaimed members.

Next, we had to hold the first meeting in person. This would be the first meeting in five years, and we would be able to open. On August 20th, 2023, we had our first in-person meeting. We had the pleasure of having our Deputy and Sovereign Grand Inspector General Larue present via Zoom. We had fifteen members present that day. It felt very refreshing to have an in-person meeting.

Our next step was to improve Albany Consistory. We visited local Blue Lodges and promoted the Consistory. On November 4, 2024, we elevated 8 new Fraters with the help of our Deputy, who came to Albany Consistory No. 90 and helped us with the elevation. Albany couldn't thank him enough. We weren't done yet. Our 1st Lieutenant, now our Commander-In-chief, continued the push in our district. On January 6, 2024, Albany Consistory No. 90 elevated seven more new Fraters. This made fifteen new Fraters and seven reinstatements. Twenty-two members are back on the rolls for Albany Consistory No. 90. Watching our Consistory grow has been a blessing.



We call our Consistory the Phoenix. As the story said, the Phoenix will rise again from its ashes. Albany Consistory No. 90 has started a weekly Zoom study class. This is unbelievable. We have 20 to 22 members weekly on Zoom. This creates a positive flow with our monthly meeting. We must understand the more we are together, the more we know each other. We also made a positive flow by helping each other use the word TEAM. There are no starters on our TEAM. Everyone is the 6th man. Each member, no matter how small their role is, makes the flow of the TEAM strong. We have no weak links in our chain.

Our community service this year was feeding ten families at Thanksgiving. An immense joy of 2023 was returning to our community at a local daycare. Our Past Commander-In-Chief Danny Melton Sr and Sublime Prince Gerald Riggins were Santa Claus and his Elf. Giving out toys and spreading the holiday joy. This is truly the meaning behind community service.



Albany calls itself “THE PHOENIX”, as we were told The Phoenix was known to be a majestic bird-like creature that lived in paradise. It was also understood that it could never indeed die.

Pentecost Consistory No. 98 has experienced a very good 2023 under our Commander in Chief, Jerry Bailey. He began by leading the Pentecost Consistory on a visit to King David No. 3 for their elections. In February, several programs were implemented to strengthen and unite the Consistory and Assembly. We had several monthly virtual Scottish Rite Lectures delivered by SGIG Leonard LaRue. The lectures are on various topics to help develop a deeper understanding of our responsibilities as Scottish Rite Masons. MWPM S.P. Steve Dandridge, with the help of G.I.G. Johnny Sanders, our dean of instruction, put together the program for the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal, held on March 16, 2023. The Fraters practiced every Thursday night leading up to the event. It turned out to be another well-attended and fantastic night.

On April 29, 2023, we attended the “Heritage Founders Day” event hosted by King David No. 3. This was another informative and well-attended event. During their youth program, Pentecost held our first church visitation at Macedonia Church on June 11, 2023. Seeing these young people was praiseworthy by far. We had a great time as well.

On Saturday, June 24, 2023, the members of the Pentecost Consistory were invited to fellowship with the Loyal Ladies of Pentecost Assembly No. 86. Their Garden Party was held indoors because of the rain, but we still had a wonderful time.

On Saturday, July 22, 2023, we participated in an Occasional at the Grand East to bring in 14 new Fraters. On July 29, 2023, the members of

Pentecost Consistory No. 98 and the Loyal Ladies of Pentecost Assembly held a “Pentecost Family Barbeque.” The outing was designed to build a stronger relationship between the Fraters and the Loyal Ladies and was a huge success enjoyed by all who attended.

On Sunday, September 24, 2023, we honored our P.C.I.C. Delvin Hodges for his service to Pentecost Consistory No. 98 during his service year 2022. It was another fantastic event attended by King David No. 3 and Long Island No. 61, the Loyal Ladies, and family and friends. In



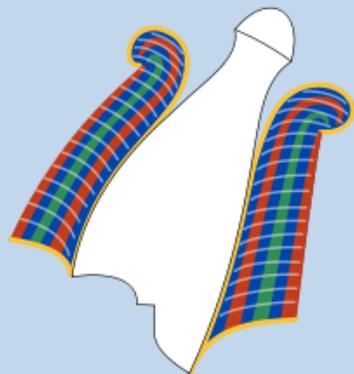
September, as the kids in our community prepared to return to school, Pentecost Consistory partnered with Elejmal Temple No. 185 A.E.A.O.N.M.S. and the Loyal Ladies of Pentecost Assembly to distribute sixty (60) gift cards to the children at West Help Shelter, which is located in Mount Vernon, New York. This program was started last year by P.C.I.C. Delvin Hodges. After looking back over 2023, Pentecost Consistory No. 98 looks forward to 2024!

New York State Grand Assembly Order of The Golden Circle ushered in a new era of Friday night entertainment for our Loyal Ladies, which created an atmosphere of fellowship and artistic creativity as they participated in a “Paint and Sip.” Under the leadership and direction of the Deputy of the Orient of New York, Rev. Hermon J. Simpson, 33°, and the State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Belinda L.M. Grant, new initiatives were implemented to enhance and update the New York State Grand Assembly. Through our charitable endeavors, we donated \$500.00 to Durham’s Maternal Stress-Free Zone, Inc., located in the inner City of Buffalo, New York, which provides a much-needed safe place for young mothers, babies, and Doulas to learn about childcare. One of many historic moments during the 2023 session was the first-ever visitation from the State Grand Loyal Lady Rulers of the States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. We look forward to the Grand Session in October 2024 where we will celebrate our 50th Grand Session with a Golden Celebration Weekend.

More Light in the Rite:

We Wear A Crown of Light for Life

Submitted by Sovereign Grand Inspector General Floyd E. Bagwell, 33°



Atef Crown



Osiris wearing the Atef Crown



33° Crown

After my elevation over twenty years ago in the 2000 Greenwood Class of 33rd Degree Masons, I am elated to share my discovery that when we were presented our 33rd Degree Ring, in its center, was embossed by the Δ Crown. This symbol is handed down from our ancient brothers, priests, sages, wise men, etc. It is the Atef Crown and down through time the symbol of light or knowledge.

I remember very vividly the admonition when elevated and lastly "go back and teach others by your light." As I reflect back on more than four decades of Masonic dedication, I often refer back to that first question I was asked:

"What come you here to do?"

Can you imagine going through days of intense indoctrination and come away asking - "where's the light?"

YOU ARE LIGHT!!!

Moreover, after reading an article by the renowned children educator, Dr. Marian Wright

Edelman, I am demonstratively moved by her by-line: "Give Light and People Will Find the Way".



Osiris adorning the Atef

USC Constitution Quiz #6

Chapter V—Rituals

Submitted by Sovereign Grand Inspector General Thomas R. Hughes, 33°

- All rituals shall be the property of the _____ and upon demand be delivered to the Deputy or any officer authorized by the _____ to receive them.
 - Consistory / Overseer of the Works
 - Supreme Council / Grand Recording Sec.
 - Supreme Council / Sov. Grand Commander
 - Supreme Council / Grand Secretary General
- The Secretary and Keeper of the Seals and Archives of each Consistory shall be responsible to the Supreme Council for the care of all rituals received by such body from the Supreme Council.
 - True
 - False
- It shall be the duty of the _____ to maintain a record of all rituals which shall have been supplied to the Consistory or its officers.
 - Commander-In-Chief
 - Sec. and Keeper of the Seals and Archives
 - The Sentinel or Tyler
 - Both B and C
- If a ritual becomes damaged or unserviceable, the _____ may return it to the Grand Secretary General and obtain from him a new copy.
 - Secretary and Keeper of the Seals and Archives
 - Commander-In-Chief
 - Deputy for the Orient
 - Sovereign Grand Commander
- Each Commander-In-Chief shall deliver to his successor in office at the time of such successor's installation or appointment, all rituals, ceremonial, and other books furnished by the Supreme Council, and which have come into the possession of such Commander-In-Chief.
 - True
 - False
- The _____ Commander-In-Chief shall prepare forthwith an inventory of all rituals in the possession of the Body of its officers on the prescribed form.
 - outgoing
 - newly elected
 - newly installed or appointed
 - newly installed
- If a Commander-In-Chief shall succeed another, by election, the "Statement of Rituals" shall be signed by both the retiring and the newly elected Commander-In-Chiefs.
 - True
 - False
- The signed "Statement of Rituals" or inventory shall be forwarded at once to the _____.
 - Deputy for the Orient
 - Grand Secretary General
 - Grand Recording Secretary
 - Commander-In-Chief
- Rehearsals for degree conferrals as well as meetings shall be duly tiled.
 - True
 - False
- A Valley may exemplify the degrees on the Rite in another Valley in the same Orient with the consent of the _____.
 - Deputy for the Orient
 - Sovereign Grand Commander
 - Overseer of the Works
 - Consistory at a Regular Meeting by 3/4 vote of the Members present
- A Valley may exemplify the degree of the Rite in another Orient only with the consent of the _____.
 - Sovereign Grand Commander
 - Deputy of the host Orient
 - Deputies of both Orients
 - United Supreme Council



INDIANA

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Carl Drummer, 33°*

The 110th Annual Session of the Indiana Council of Deliberation (INCOD) was held September 17, 2023 at the Indianapolis Marriott East with SGIG Carl Drummer, 33°, presiding. Also present were the Honorable William Robinson, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Indiana; SGIG Edward Brooks 33°, Secretary General of the Holy Empire representing the Sovereign Grand Commander; and SGIG Osumana Cassell 33°, Deputy, Orient of Iowa. Other visitors included SGIG Milton Jackson 33° (IL) and SGIG Patrick Peacock 33° (IA). Malta Consistory #34 served as the Host Consistory and SP Johnnie Edwards, Commander-in-Chief, opened the INCOD.

Fund Educational Grant was awarded to Xavier Ntamere, a student at Howard University. Another highlight was the awarding of the Grady B. Hinkle Award to GIG Donnie Johnson 33° for his long and distinguished service to the INCOD. He is also a Past Most Worshipful Grand Master of the MWPHGL of Indiana. The following INCOD officers were elected for the INCOD:

- *1st Lt. Commander—GIG Michael Westbrooks*
- *2nd Lt. Commander—GIG Jonathan Vincent*
- *Minister of State—GIG Marshall Taylor*
- *Secretary—GIG Wayne Harrison*
- *Treasurer—SGIG Theodore Millard*



One of the highlights of the Council was the awarding of the James Terry Scholarships to three outstanding graduating high school seniors – Serenity Evans (Psychology major, IUPUI); Princeton Young (Business Management major, Tippen University) and Raydon Jones (Nursing major, University of Evansville). The Benevolent

SGIG Drummer closed the Council with brief remarks and congratulated the newest Sublime Princes of the John T. Dabney Class of 2023: Gary Mopp, Samuel Reed, and Ervin Oswald of Magic City Consistory #62; and Martin Hill and Humphrey Naglia of Constantine Consistory #25.





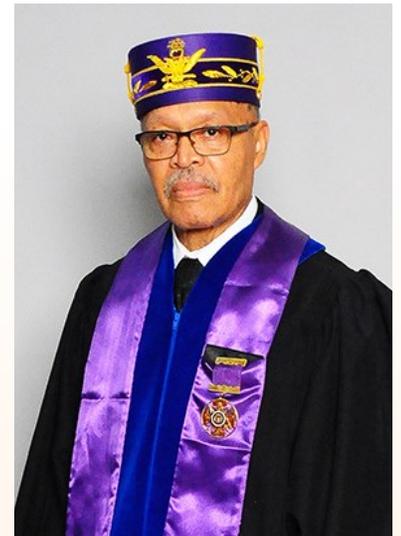
SGIG EDWARD HARRISON CELEBRATES 99TH BIRTHDAY

In a gathering filled with warmth and admiration, Mahomet Temple #134 AEAONMS along with family and friends gathered to celebrate the remarkable 99th birthday of SGIG Ed Harrison 33° (pictured above). This milestone isn't just a testament to the passage of time; it's a reflection of a life rich in experiences, wisdom, and unwavering dedication. He has not only witnessed nearly a century of history but has actively contributed to it, particularly through years of devoted service to the Masonic order. Across various masonic bodies, SGIG Harrison has left an indelible mark, embodying the principles of brotherhood, charity, and enlightenment. His journey within the Masonic fraternity has not only been a personal endeavor but a commitment to the betterment of the community and the lives of those around him. As the fraters extend our heartfelt wishes for a happy 99th birthday, we recognize the wealth of knowledge and legacy he carries. Each passing year adds another layer to a tapestry woven with moments of service, friendship, and growth. Here's to SGIG Harrison, a beacon of inspiration, as he embarks on another revolution around the sun. May the upcoming years continue to unfold with joy, prosperity, and the enduring spirit of Masonic ideals.

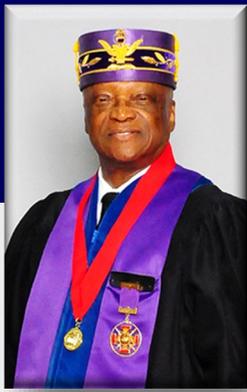
SGIG JOSEPH SLAY, JR. HONORED DURING CIC BANQUET

During the Magic City Consistory #62 Commander-In-Chief Luncheon on November 11, 2023, attendees gathered to honor a distinguished figure in SGIG Joseph Slay, Jr. 33°, the former Deputy of the

Orient, whose legacy reverberates throughout the Jurisdiction because of his service and commitment to Prince Hall Masonry. The spotlight shone brightly on him, recognizing his outstanding contribution during the years he served not only as the Deputy of the Orient but also as Past Most Worshipful Grand Master. SGIG Slay stands as a paragon of dedication and astuteness, navigating challenges with grace and leading with a vision that left an enduring impact. His tenure as Deputy of the Orient was marked by a tireless pursuit of excellence, fostering unity, and advancing the goals of the organization. While no longer in the position of Deputy, SGIG Slay remains in active



status with the United Supreme Council. Beyond the borders of Indiana, his influence and commitment endures as he continues to contribute to the broader tapestry of the Scottish Rite's success. As accolades and applause filled the room, it became evident that this recognition was not just a tribute to a leader's past achievements but a celebration of a legacy that continues to evolve. SGIG Slay's enduring commitment to the organization serves as a beacon, inspiring current and future leaders to emulate the standards of excellence set by his remarkable example.



DELAWARE

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General
James A. Scott, 33^o*

The Orient of Delaware held the 133rd Council of Deliberation and was honored to have the Sovereign Grand Commander, Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, 33^o in attendance. The 133rd Council of Deliberation was a historic event because it was the first time that Sovereign Grand Commander Bazemore has attend the Orient in his capacity as Sovereign Grand Commander (SGC). The Council was well attended as the Most Illustrious Commander-In-Chief received the Secretary General of the Holy Empire, Edward Brooks, 33^o, the Deputy from the Orient of New Jersey and Fraters from the Orients of Maryland and Pennsylvania.

During the Council, Most Illustrious Commander-In-Chief SGIG James A. Scott, 33^o praised the members for managing United Supreme Council programs within the Orient. SGIG James R. Fitzgerald, Jr manages the *Recruit, Retain, Reclaim Program*, and SGIG George B. Winston III manages the *Make a Difference (MAD)* charity program. The State Grand Assembly held its session as well. State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Bernadette P. Winston received Order of the Golden Circle Loyal Lady guests from the Orient of Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Sovereign Grand Commander Bazemore visited their meeting along with the Most Illustrious Commander in Chief, and the Most Worshipful Grand Master Ronald Q. Vann Jr, 33^o.

During the activities of the Council of Deliberation, the Council held its 2nd Annual Recognition and Scholarship Luncheon. Each Orient organization presented Scholarship awards. Seven Students received over \$7,000. SGC Bazemore also presented two Education Grants from the United Supreme Council Benevolent Foundation. C.P. Houston Consistory No. 119, Dover DE. was chosen as the Consistory of the Year and the Assembly of the year was Delaware Assembly No. 43, Wilmington DE. The Deputy for the Orient awarded GIG Jeffery Chandler, 33^o and GIG Kenneth Robinson, 33^o the Deputy Award for outstanding support to the Orient.



Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Bazemore, 33^o received



MWGM Hon. Ronald Q. Vann, 33^o and RW Deputy Grand Master Everett Lewis, 32^o received



SGC Dr. Bazemore, 33^o and delegation visit the Delaware State Grand Assembly

The Orient was elated to have Sovereign Grand Commander, Dr. Melvin Bazemore as the Keynote Speaker. He delivered a dynamic speech highlighting the importance of education, the right to choose your path in political support and recent accomplishments of the United Supreme Council.





During the Luncheon, scholarships were presented to Jeremiah Whitehurst, James Fitzgerald IV, Nyla Robinson, Sidney Stewart, Brian Scott Hill, and Tony Morris. State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Bernadette P. Winston and Loyal Lady Ruler Bernice Gladney presented the scholarships to Mr. Jeremiah Whitehurst.

DELAWARE ORIENT ACTIVITIES

In December, Sister Betty Scott, wife of Deputy for the Orient SGIG James Scott, 33° delivered during a winter storm, to Loyal Lady Deborah Lewis, Chairman of Assembly No. 96 charity committee, items to be donated to others. The Assembly supports charity efforts throughout the State.



CORINTHIAN CONSISTORY NO. 5



On October 7, 2023, Consistory #5 in the Valley of Wilmington, Orient of Delaware elevated seven (7) Masonic Brothers to the degree of Sublime Prince. The new Fraters are now holding positions in Consistory # 5. Corinthian Consistory # 5 welcomes the new Fraters and look forward to having them as an intricate part of our Consistory.

The new Sublime Princes (SP) are Delorean Julien Andrews, 32°, Alfred J. Campbell, 32°, Demetrius DeRamus, 32°, George S. Williams Jr, 32°, James E. Carr, 32°, Anthony L. Easterling, 32°, William J. Betts, 32°. In addition, Corinthian Consistory #5 also welcomed back to our order SP Alexander Peterson, who has agreed to be the Public Relation Officer. We also welcome a transfer from the Orient of Maryland SP Ken Swan. Corinthian Consistory #5 has restarted the “Feed the Homeless program.” The Consistory will now feed 12-15 males the 1st Wednesday of every month.

**ASSEMBLY NO.43, WILMINGTON DELAWARE
SELECTED AS ASSEMBLY OF THE YEAR**

These are highlights of the good works of Delaware Assembly #43 throughout 2023 under the leadership of PLLR Angelia McNair. We are so proud to have been able to do this work together as a team. The vision for the year was carried out with the edification of God at heart. Below is a summary of the good works that were accomplished throughout 2023.

In June 2023, Past Loyal Lady Ruler, LL Sondonia Parker, Project Chairperson worked dutifully to collect bath towels; face



towels; toothbrushes; toothpaste; bath soap; body wash; and socks. These items were donated to Child, Inc.’s Domestic Violence Shelter. This shelter provides a safe haven for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. Men who suffer from domestic violence are sheltered in local hotels. Kudos to LL Parker and #43 for a job well done!

The charity work for July 2023, under the leadership of LL Karyn Workman, Project Chairperson, was The Home of the Brave which is an organization that was established to furnish food, transitional housing, and counseling to



male and female homeless Veterans. The location for Home of the Braves is in Milford, Delaware. Delaware Assembly #43 in collaboration with Assemblies #81 and #96, donated food and drinks for a barbeque, for veterans that reside at the Home of the Brave Shelter. Six (6) members of Delaware Assembly travelled to Milford, Delaware, donated foods, helped cook, and served the Veterans. They also socialized with the Veterans at the barbeque and received a tour of their facility.

In August 2023, Delaware Assembly, under the leadership of LL Christine Watkins, Project Chairperson together with the LLs of Delaware Assembly #43 collected personal items for the young ladies of Joseph Johnson Elementary School, Wilmington, DE where Dr. Chrishaun Fitzgerald is the Principal. The items collected were 1,074 feminine sanitary napkins; 202 cosmetic cases to carry personal items; 75 pairs of lady's underwear. These products are a much needed item in our schools as well as around the world for young school-aged ladies.



In September 2023, Delaware Assembly hosted its 1st Annual Jazz Brunch. LL Inger Collies was the Project Chairperson. She put together an awesome Sunday Jazz Brunch with live music, and good food. The location was Antonio's Ballroom & Lounge in Wilmington, DE. A great time was had by all. This was the first time for this type of fundraiser by #43 and they have decided to hold the event annually. Next year is in planning.



Delaware Assembly #43 was the host Assembly

at the October 2023, Orient of Delaware Council of Deliberation's 133rd Annual Session. Delaware Assembly received its guests with a continental breakfast upon arrival. Their hard work throughout the year did not go unnoticed. They were named by Deputy SGIG James A. Scott, Assembly of the Year for 2023. Delaware's Assemblies showed up and showed out in honor of our special guest, Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore. Members of Delaware Assembly not only worked hard but they also travelled to nearby Assemblies' social events. They travelled to Willard W. Allen Assembly #386, Aberdeen, MD to their "Welcoming New Doves and Crowning Presentation". This proved to be a beautiful and fun event.

In October 2023, members also travelled to Queen Esther Assembly #1's Gospel Dinner Celebration in Baltimore, MD. A great time was had by all. Also, October 2023's event under the leadership of LL Christine Watkins, put together a monetary donation to Making Strides against Breast Cancer in the name of Delaware Assembly.



Past Loyal Lady Ruler Angelia L. McNair thought it very appropriate to present deserving members of Delaware Assembly #43 with certificates and gifts as a token of appreciation for their participation in the success of the year's administration. Much charity and community service work was accomplished through teamwork, kindness, and commitment to helping others that are less fortunate.

The officers and members of Delaware Assembly congratulate the incoming Loyal Lady Ruler, LL Loretta Legette, Loyal Lady Associate Ruler, LL Angela Garland and the outgoing Past Loyal Lady Ruler, LL Angelia L. McNair.





EUROPE

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Enrique John, 33°*

Greetings from the Orient of Europe!

I extend my warmest greetings from the Orient of Europe! As I pen these words, I am filled with gratitude and reverence. Allow me to express my heartfelt thanks to the Great Architect of the Universe (G.A.O.T.U) for the unwavering blessings bestowed upon us and the precious gift of life that we cherish each day.

In this moment, I wish to direct my gratitude towards you—the dedicated individuals who form the backbone of our community. To the Orient staff, whose tireless efforts ensure the smooth functioning of our sacred order, I offer my deepest appreciation. Your commitment to our shared purpose is commendable, and I am grateful for your unwavering dedication. Likewise, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Consistories—those hallowed spaces where wisdom is imparted, bonds are forged, and enlightenment prevails. Your guidance, teachings, and camaraderie enrich our journey, and for that, I am profoundly thankful.

Amidst the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, our commitment remains unwavering: we will maintain a neutral stance while steadfastly offering our prayers to those impacted by the crisis. May our paths continue to be illuminated by the light of knowledge, fraternity, and purpose. Together, let us uphold the noble traditions of our order and honor the legacy entrusted to us.

BOOKER T. ALEXANDER CONSISTORY #117

As Booker T. Alexander Consistory moves into the year of 2024, this consistory has been slowly moving on to grow. The many movements of the military and war between Ukraine and Russia has hurt Booker T. Alexander's membership a bit. However, in the past month, the Consistory has visited lodges in Grafenwöhr and Vilseck and I am glad to report we have hit a new stride in drawing new quality candidates.

The consistory has four new candidates on the horizon. This is the start of many surveys done last year by Ill. Commander-In-Chief GIG Reiss Byrd, along with the Overseer GIG Howard Martin. We broke ground on showing members of our symbolic lodge and the community who and what the

Scottish Rite is. We are ready to work on a new membership push for candidates on events like "Why the Scottish Rite?", and more programs like a color guard, and classes named after historic Consistory members. Chambers Nights is on our radar to make a comeback. So, for membership, we will be moving forward.

There is a new Ill. Commander-In-Chief of Booker T. Alexander Consistory #117. SP Eduardo Montesinos, 32°. He will lead this consistory into a new year and a technical age utilizing new ways of communication to members within the Orient. His predecessor, Past Commander-In-Chief GIG Reiss Byrd, 33°, helped bring the consistory to where it is now. It is focused on teaching standards, and gaining quality membership which will keep this consistory moving. Ill. Commander-In-Chief SP Montesinos, 32° has the drive and knowledge in technology and the consistory and we are sure that he will lead honorably by example like his predecessor did even during the time of the COVID outbreak years. Past Commander-In-Chief GIG Reiss Byrd, 33° holds the record of the longest serving Commander-In-Chief for Booker T. Alexander with 9 years. He will be serving as the consistory Secretary/KoSA with Ill CIC Montesinos leading the consistory and GIG Howard Martin, 33° as Overseer. Booker T. Alexander Consistory #117 will be back and ready to roll in 2024.

KARAMURSEL CONSISTORY # 96

Karamursel Consistory # 96, Valley of Bahrain, is thrilled to unveil our latest initiatives aimed at fostering engagement, promoting unity, and strengthening bonds within our vibrant community. We believe that working together can create positive change and enhance our collective goals and well-being.

With our passion for giving back to our community, we have successfully hosted, collaborated, mentored and organized various events by contributing our time and making a difference in the lives of others. We believe that these initiatives will strengthen the unity within our organization and the community while inspiring positive change. Our goal is to come together and make our community a vibrant, inclusive and dynamic place to live.

In September 2023, in line with the observation of Prince Hall Day on island, the Sublime Princesses together with Deputy, SGIG Enrique John and Overseer, GIG Alexander Hernandez

supported and participated in the distribution of meal packages in the Bahrain Bay area. In October, the Consistory and other Masonic bodies volunteered for the playground marking at Philippine School Bahrain in support of the youth. In November, the Consistory with the approval of MWR, was able to set-up a booth for the celebration of MWR's annual Halloween's trick or treat. In January 2024, during our season of giving, we visited distressed expatriates on their shelters to provide small things for their needs at the Philippine Embassy compound.



A great opportunity to relax, bond and enjoy some recreational activities in the organization. With the opportunity to recognize and appreciate our brothers' dedication, continuous striving for excellence and outstanding contribution to the Orient. Together, we can achieve great things!

- **May 2023:** The Consistory was represented in the presence of Past CIC Emmanuel Ganayo who became a Grand Inspector General in the SGIG William Stark Class of 2023.



- **September 2023:** Six (6) new Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret were advanced with the honour and privilege to be guided by the presence of SGIG Enrique John, Deputy, and GIG Alexander Hernandez, Overseer for the Valley of Bahrain. Sports are considered one of the backbones of the consistory to keep brotherly affection moving through the ranks.





- **December 2023** – SP Rogin Follante takes the seat and responsibility as new Commander-In-Chief of for the ensuring year 2024.

COMMANDERS OF THE RITE-EUROPE

Grand Inspector Ronnie Grant, 33° Mentoring the youth but coaching the Pee Wee League in Virginia. He has been working with the Youth for the past 3 years and these young children and parents are excited each day. He is making a Positive contribution for not only for the District by Scottish Rite Masonry. He is also a member of Spain Military Consistory #99.



Sovereign Grand Inspector Rev. Richard Vega, 33° represented the Orient on community supported projects with the Abundant Heart Community Church:

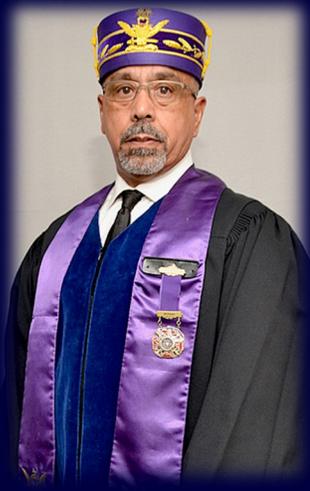
1. El Jen Nursing Home in visiting the patients and sharing prayers and playing board games.
2. Three Square food Bank floor in need in the North Las Vegas area.



3. Supported the MWPHGLNV in the feeding Homeless Veterans in North Las Vegas.
4. Was asked to be the keynote at Nellis Air Force Base Exchange Veterans Day Celebration.

In His Service, Reverend Rich Vega, “Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” - John 15:13





Security Corner:



CYBER SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Submitted by Sovereign Grand Inspector General Roy J. Mays, 33°, Chief of Security

Effective cyber situational awareness requires both people and technology. Technology like cybersecurity tools and automation software allows organizations to collect, analyze, and respond to threat data. But people are also crucial because they're the ones who use the tools, interpret the data, use tools, and make decisions to strengthen cyber defense.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CYBER SITUATIONAL AWARENESS?

Strengthen Cyber Defenses

- Cyber situational awareness empowers organizations to understand current risks and anticipate future ones. Organizations can then design or identify the required solutions to strengthen their cybersecurity posture and improve their risk management program.

Protect Organizational Assets

- By anticipating future adverse events, leaders and decision-makers can develop effective countermeasures to protect themselves, their IT assets, and their customers and stakeholders from cyber-attacks such as malware and data breaches.

Mitigate Human Weaknesses

These figures show how humans are a critical weakness in cybersecurity:

- *66% of organizations believe that insider attacks are more likely than external attacks;*
- *57% feel that insider incidents have become more frequent since 2020 (particularly since the onset of the pandemic);*
- *59% of IT leaders expect insider risks to increase over the next two years.*

The potential for human error is high, and these errors could lead to severe damage. To prevent such errors (or at least to catch them early) cyber situational awareness is crucial.

Cyber situational awareness enables organizations to understand threats from

employees, ex-employees, and even third-party stakeholders. Equally important, it sets the stage for designing appropriate threat response and risk mitigation strategies.

WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS OF CYBER SITUATIONAL AWARENESS?

The modern cyber threat landscape is vast, complex, and constantly growing. Organizations require more than reactive cybersecurity operations and stand-alone tools for intrusion detection or endpoint protection to stay ahead of the bad guys. A lack of real-time and relevant information about threats and threat actors, and a poor understanding of your own cyber situation, can be particularly dangerous. That cyber situational awareness must be improved on three key fronts:

Network Situational Awareness

Once upon a time enterprise networks were much less complex than they are today. They had closely defined perimeters and on-premises systems; and didn't have to deal with the risks created by remote workers, BYOD devices, cloud-based assets, or third-party access. All of this has now changed.

Today the enterprise network no longer has a defined perimeter, and the number of threats in the network environment has exploded. To prevent these threats from damaging enterprise systems or data, comprehensive network situational awareness is crucial. It should include multiple aspects, including:

- *Understand the structure of the network;*
- *Regularly inventory and continually manage all assets and configurations;*
- *Implement robust patch and upgrade management;*
- *Perform routine vulnerability auditing to find vulnerabilities before bad actors can exploit them;*
- *Improve incident awareness, and share this information across the organization and with relevant stakeholders.*

Threat Intelligence

New threats, vulnerabilities, and threat actors are emerging every day, so organizations must scale up their threat awareness. Further, threat awareness must include up-to-date knowledge of both external and internal threats. And for this, threat intelligence is vital.

Actionable threat intelligence provides contextual, real-time threat information that empowers organizations to prevent, identify, prioritize, and mitigate cyber-attacks.

To maintain high threat awareness in the modern-day threat landscape, enterprises must:

- *Identify and track all internal threats, including suspicious behaviors;*
- *Identify, track, and stay current on external threats;*
- *Participate in information sharing communities to stay updated on new and emerging threats.*

Mission Awareness

Cyber situational awareness is incomplete without mission awareness, which we can broadly define as an awareness of the organization's mission or business, and how threats and countermeasures fit into the perspective or context of this mission. To start with, this requires developing a comprehensive view of the critical mission dependencies to operate in cyberspace successfully.

By understanding these dependencies, the organization can:

- *Respond appropriately to a security event or crisis;*
- *Triage, or prioritize, security incidents as per their impact on the organization's mission or business;*
- *Anticipate threats and risks by conducting risk and readiness assessments;*
- *Implement informed defense planning to mitigate future events;*
- *Conduct post-event forensic analysis to identify and address gaps in the security posture, and to minimize the chance of repeat events in future.*

HOW CAN I IMPROVE MY CYBER SITUATIONAL AWARENESS?

Ongoing and robust cyber protection requires cyber situational awareness at every level of the enterprise. A tactical and on-the-ground

understanding of threats is critical for day-to-day security.

It's also crucial to develop strategic and operational cyber situational awareness. Senior leadership should understand the potential impact of a security event on the organization's ability to execute its operations.

To achieve this level of situational awareness, lower-level details must be summarized and correlated to the business context. It's also important to look for information about:

- *Indicators of compromise (IoC);*
- *Threat actors;*
- *Tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs);*
- *Threat trends.*

The right tools can help improve visibility into the threat landscape and improve situational awareness by tracking:

- *Enterprise devices (endpoints), processes, applications, and users (both authorized and unauthorized users);*
- *How authorized assets serve the organization, and how critical they are;*
- *Known vulnerabilities on these assets.*

In addition to leveraging tools for:

- *Threat detection and management;*
- *Network management;*
- *Incident reporting;*
- *Threat intelligence sharing;*
- *Risk monitoring.*

Enterprises must also integrate information and contextualize it to create a clear picture of what is versus what should be. For this, a robust system for situational awareness can be beneficial.

Finally, organizations should assure that information sharing happens regularly and at every level. Creating awareness about threats and vulnerabilities should flow from security and IT operations teams to employees to provide ground-level situational awareness.

At the same time, empower employees to share information with security stakeholders via incident reporting for strong threat mitigation. Cybersecurity awareness yields dividends when you can prevent chaos, rather than react to it.

Source: <https://reciprocity.com/resources/what-is-cyber-situational-awareness/> retrieved 3/8/2024

FAR EAST

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Charles H. Bush Jr., 33°*



The Orient's 53rd Annual Far East Council of Deliberation (FECOD) was held in the Tokyo Masonic Tower, Tokyo, Japan, on May 1, 2023. We were honored to

have several distinguished guests in attendance, including the Honorable Gilbert McClary, Most Worshipful Grand Master (MWGM) for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge for the State of Washington and Jurisdiction, and SGIG Daniel R. Poole, 33°, Illustrious Grand Recording Secretary. In addition to conducting the regular business of the COD and recognizing several outstanding performers, we discussed the Orient's focus areas for 2023 and 2024, which are membership and charitable activities.

I addressed the USC Membership Reclamation Program and tasked the Consistories to begin tracking charitable activities, volunteer hours, and monetary and in-kind donations. Both focus areas are aligned with the USC committees and subcommittees and will increase membership involvement within the Orient. It will also facilitate mentorship and deliberate development within our ranks and better prepare members for future leadership opportunities. In addition to our

focus areas, we paid tribute to the fraters and a spouse who passed away since the last FECOD. Additionally, we held the SGIG Billy H. Hall Education Symposium.

The Orient reported the loss of three members and one spouse over the past 12 months. They were GIG Valentino Camacho, 33° (J.C. Logan No. 114), GIG John (Jay) Jones, 33° (J.C. Logan No. 114), SP Stanley Larkin, 32° (Joseph I. Staton No. 103), and Anita T. Sheets, spouse of GIG James Sheets, 33° (J.C. Logan No. 114). The members prayed for comfort and mercy to their friends, families, and loved ones. Additionally, prayers were rendered for the sick and distressed and those traveling to and from the FECOD. Following the agenda, the Orient conducted its education symposium.

During each FECOD, we conduct the SGIG Billy H. Hall Education Symposium, which honors our 3rd Past Deputy for the Orient of the Far East. This year's training was led by GIG Kenneth Dix, 33° and GIG Rodney Roberson, 33°. Dix and Roberson provided training to the Orient's Sublime Princes selected to be conferred the Thirty-Third Degree. Other discussion topics included updating and improving the Orient Standard Operating Procedures and proficiency in the opening and closing ceremonies of the Lodge of Perfection and the Chapter of Rose Croix.



After the conclusion of the FECOD and the USC 142nd Annual Session held in Denver, Colorado, members remained actively involved in Scottish Rite activities throughout the year. The following is a brief overview.

- Members supported the USC's Making a Difference (M.A.D.) Program by participating in the Great Cycling Challenge and raising \$538 for the Children's Cancer Research Fund.
- Fraters of the Far East helped compose the Northern Jurisdiction, PHA delegation that attended the United Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, 137th Annual Session in Huntsville, Alabama from October 6 – 10, 2023.
- SGIG Dr. Dwayne E. Thomas, 33°, USC Education and Development Department Director, GIG Gary Smith, 33°, and other members of the Orient participated in “The Moving Camp Podcast.” This is a “first of its kind” initiative for the USC. The podcast is a creative and engaging means to promote Scottish Rite education amongst the membership and enhance the Scottish Rite Experience.
- Members of Keystone Consistory No. 85, Valley of Okinawa, donated over \$400 in Christmas gifts to an Okinawa Orphanage to support a collaborative community relations event with the Prince Hall Masonic bodies on Okinawa. Keystone’s contributions also contributed to the USC M.A.D. program.



- Additionally, the Consistory collected and delivered assorted candies to local orphanages, a children’s daycare facility in Nago City, Okinawa, and single mothers for Valentine's Day. This is a yearly endeavor led by Valley Overseer SGIG Ervin M.C. White, 33°. This year they were able to positively impact over 250 children and mothers.



- On January 27, 2024, SGIG Lee and SGIG Terence Jackson, 33°, Orient of Colorado, attended a Princes and Peers Banquet for Sunshine City Consistory No. 147, Orient of Florida. This Scottish Rite body is subordinate to the USC, 33°, AASR, PHA, SJ, USA, under the leadership of Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., 33°. Both Lee and Jackson provided closing comments to those in attendance.



Although our members are dispersed overseas and in the continental United States, we continue to find ways to be actively involved and engaged in the work of the Scottish Rite. Our 54th FECOD is scheduled for March 24th and 25th, 2024, in the Republic of South Korea. We expect it to be an outstanding occasion and another opportunity to fellowship with one another.



OHIO

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Carl A. Williams, 33°*

The Orient of Ohio forges ahead with increased activity levels on all fronts. The Fraters and Loyal Ladies are indeed "Making a Difference"! Miami Assembly No. 22, Valley of Dayton hosted "You've Got Talent 2: Talent Showcase 2023" on Saturday, October 14, 2023. Children from ages 5 through 18 had the chance to exhibit their skills in dancing, singing, poetry, and other talents. Congratulations to GIG Willie A. Terrell 33° (26) (third vice president and scholarship chair of the Dayton NAACP) on being awarded the Distinguished Volunteer of the Year Award during the 72nd Hall of Freedom Awards on, Friday, October 27, 2023.

The 114th Ohio Council of Deliberation and 52nd Ohio Grand Assembly was held in the Valley of Cleveland from Friday, October 27 through Sunday, October 29, 2023. Friday evening, as guests arrived, Deputy for the Orient of Ohio, SGIG Carl A. Williams 33° (15), hosted his annual dinner. A welcome hospitality was held later that night and was well attended. Saturday morning found the chamber opened and the reading of the Deputy's Allocution. He emphasized the success of the programs for the Orient.

The highlight of the morning session was the bestowal of the Gold Stole of Honor upon SGIG Otis Moss Jr. 33° (15) by Lieutenant Grand Commander SGIG Sidney D. Broadnax Jr. 33° (20) who represented our Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore 33° (6). Illustrious Moss



has served long and gallantly in the trenches of the fight for civil rights. His community service through his pastorate of Olivet Institutional Baptist Church is undeniable and he served the United Supreme Council as Illustrious Grand Prior with the same vigor. The Meritorious Service Award was given to GIG Dwight I. Morton 33° (15) for the care and concern exhibited to the late GIG Jerry R. Ellerson 33° (15), 65th Grand Master of Ohio and his family during his time of need.

The normal business of the

Council of Deliberation was attended to and handled efficiently. The 66th Most Worshipful Grand Master (GIG) Robert M. Estelle Jr. (26) was properly received and provided his comments. The statewide Commanders of the Rite meeting was conducted by SGIG Gregory S. Snead 33° (15). All Valleys submitted favorable reports and all officers were returned to their stations. This year's donation of \$500 was made to The African-American Museum of Cleveland. Director Frances Caldwell accepted the donation on behalf of the museum (below). She conveyed her thanks. PCIC Emanuel Ashong 33° (15) is a Board member.



Saturday night during the annual session is always reserved for the banquet for the outgoing State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler. A troupe of Ghanaian singers and dancers delighted the crowd with a powerful performance in receiving State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Janice M. Bostic, Bezaleel Assembly No. 19, Cleveland and her husband SGIG Embie R. Bostic 33° (15). SGLLR Bostic was showered with many kind words and gifts and attendees were treated to a dynamic speaker in the person Dr. Charles Moldin.



Sunday was the close of the business with the Commander of the Year Award being awarded to Illustrious G I G Eugene Washington "Bo" Haynesworth 33° (15). Despite his own ongoing health challenges to include 45 cancer treatments, he still



maintained the course and saw the business of the Consistory through. Sunday also ended the term of State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Janice Bostic (19) and ushered in the term of State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Arthurine F. Shepard, Miami Assembly No. 22, Valley of Dayton.

GIG Jason Dunn 33° (20) was appointed as the CEO of the National Coalition of Black Meeting Professionals. Illustrious Dunn previously served as Vice President of Visit Cincy and is an



18-year tourism industry veteran. Congratulations on such a remarkable achievement! On Sunday, November 19, 2023, SGIG Lawrence E. Coleman 33° (20) delivered his Initial Sermon at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Cincinnati.



BEZALEEL ASSEMBLY NO. 19 MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Monday, October 16, 2023, Loyal Lady Associate Ruler Diane P. Jofferion, volunteered along with Loyal Lady Berkeley Dixon and Loyal Lady Dianna Alexander weighing and repacking bread at the Cleveland Food Bank to be distributed to families in need.



Bezaleel Consistory No. 15 held a Reunion on Wednesday, December 20, 2023. CIC Haynesworth and his officers Advanced 7 Brothers into the mysteries of the Scottish Rite.

Congratulations are in order for S.P. George A. Frederick II 32° (15)! Frater Frederick was recently appointed as the Warden for the Marion Correctional Institution. After almost 30 years of progressively responsible service at every level of the correctional system in various institutions in the state of Ohio, to include 4 years of honorable Active Duty service in the U.S. Navy and 7 additional years in the Reserves, he was appropriately recognized in his chosen profession.



The Orient of Ohio held its first lecture series on Sunday, January 28. This lecture series is the brainchild of Illustrious Minister of State and Grand Orator GIG Eugene W. Greenfield 33° (21). Illustrious Greenfield facilitated the first session—“The History of Prince Hall Scottish Rite Masonry”. The second in the monthly Orient of Ohio lecture series—“The Lodge of Perfection and Symbolism of the 4th Degree”—was held on Sunday, February 25. Illustrious Greenfield (21) and PCIC Irving L. Straun Jr. 33° (20) facilitated.



On Wednesday, February 22, during the regular meeting of Bezaleel Consistory No. 15, Deputy for the Orient, SGIG Carl A. Williams 33°, presented SGIG Robert L. Alexander 33° with a plaque congratulating him on more than 25 years of service as the Illustrious Secretary and Keeper of the Seals and Archives.

At noon, Saturday, October 28, 2023, at the DoubleTree by the Hilton in Westlake, the members of Bezaleel Assembly No. 19, led by LL Jofferion, opened the 52nd Ohio Grand Assembly. Later that night the Assembly also hosted the banquet for PSGLLR Janice M. Bostic. During the session the Queen’s Contest was won by LL Delores “Dee Dee” Howell (19) with more than \$2,600 collected. We were honored when the Deputy, SGIG Williams 33° and his entourage of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of Ohio accompanied by MWGM Robert M. Estelle and Lieutenant Grand Commander, SGIG Sidney D. Broadnax Jr. 33° (representing Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore 33°), made a special visit to the Grand Assembly.

Thursday, November 9, 2023, eight Loyal Ladies; Commander-in-Chief GIG Haynesworth 33°; GIG Alvin Taylor 33°; and SP Donald Dixon 32° served lunch at the Annual Alzheimer’s Association - Caregiver Luncheon at Camp George Forbes. We received a lot of information on caring for our loved ones. On Saturday, November 11, 2023, LL Jofferion attended the “THANK YOU LUNCH” sponsored by Community Service Committee Chairperson LL Berkeley Dixon and her family. This lunch thanked Bezaleel Assembly No. 19 for supporting the committee all year through 31 community service events. LL Dixon said it could have been done without the Loyal Ladies of Bezaleel Assembly No. 19.

Thursday, November 16, 2023, from 8–12 noon, Bezaleel Assembly No. 19 and Bezaleel Consistory No. 15 packed 65 food boxes for Children & Family Services and Providence House for Thanksgiving. This is a project that LL Jofferion has been doing for more than 48 years and takes on special meaning since her mother passed away in 2001.

On Friday, November 17, 2023, members volunteered at St. Martin De Porres High School manning the orange packing and distribution line. Smiles were put on many faces as they received

fresh fruit. On Saturday, November 18, 2023, the Assembly participated in the annual “Feed the Community” dinner at the Lodge in Cleveland, Ohio. Approximately 375 people were served.

On Saturday, December 2, 2023, the Assembly visited the Ronald McDonald House and took pictures of the families and presented those pictures as Christmas presents. Members also participated in a karaoke session, and they truly enjoyed themselves. On Tuesday, December 5, 2023, the Assembly traveled to the Cleveland Clinic – Langston Hughes Community Health & Education Center and met with the coordinator of the American Sickle Cell Anemia Association. This Association is one of the charities of focus for the 2024 year. The coordinator is related to two storied individuals of the Cleveland Prince Hall family—the late William and Endia Eason of Ecclesiastes Lodge No. 120, and Ecclesiastes Chapter No. 101. On Thursday, December 7, 2023, Loyal Lady Jofferion, LL Debra Peoples, and LL Dixon assisted in the toy giveaway at A. J. Rickoff School.

On Sunday, December 17, 2023, the Assembly attended St. John the Evangelist Day services at St. John AME Church. GIG Rev. Henry F. Curtis IV 33° is the pastor and a member of Bezaleel Consistory No. 15. On Monday, December 18, 2023, Loyal Lady Jofferion; LL Dixon; Illustrious Commander-in-Chief Haynesworth 33°, GIG Andre Haynesworth 33°; SP Donald Dixon 32°, and SP Kevin Jackson 32° served 300 men at the Lutheran Men’s Shelter in downtown Cleveland.



On Friday, December 22, 2023, the Assembly participated in passing out Christmas goodie bags to the Kindergarteners at Franklin D. Roosevelt Academy in Cleveland, Ohio. On Monday, December 25, 2023, Christmas, members of the Assembly attended the annual Knights Templar Christmas Observance at the Prince Hall Lodge. On Tuesday, January 3, 2024, the Assembly delivered clothing to Singleton Nursing Home.

On Wednesday, January 17, 2024, Loyal Lady Associate Ruler Diane P. Jofferion was elevated to the position of Loyal Lady Ruler of Bezaleel

Assembly No. 19. SGIG Carl A. Williams 33°, conducted the election and installation. PLLR Roxie Headen presented the braid; LL Jofferion’s husband, S.P. Willie R. Jofferion 32°, gave a bouquet of flowers; and her son, Marzell Brown, gifted the emblem for the altar for presentation to Bezaleel Assembly. A down home meal was prepared by Illustrious Commander-in-Chief Haynesworth 33° and the Loyal Ladies.

2023-2024 VOTER AWARENESS TEAMS

The 2023-2024 Voter Awareness Team has been extremely busy this year under the direction of the Deputy, SGIG Williams 33°. We operate on a fundamental pledge to make voters aware of their opportunities throughout Ohio. This committee works to synergize the efforts of the various masonic bodies of the jurisdiction of Ohio using a multipronged approach working in conjunction with other civic, fraternal, faith-based, and community-mobilization organizations to push out the message of the importance of voting as well as educate voters on candidates, issues, and proposed legislation. These efforts were augmented by voter registration drives held at parades, cookouts, and citywide community events; nonpartisan canvassing in neighborhoods; hosting candidate nights and candidate forums in-person and on Zoom; and pushing information out via the Voter Awareness in Ohio Facebook page. Notably none of the participating organizations engage in partisan politics. Collectively, we promote no candidate or stance over another. Rather we provide the impetus for voter education on the issues who will then vote their conscious. We took a stronger stance by being in leadership positions within these partner organization. The goal is always to Engage, Educate, and Mobilize! We launched *Souls to the Polls* and ride sharing in conjunction with multiple Consistories in the Orient.

Cincinnati Team held an informational session on voter turnout in December 2023 and spoke at the Pythagorans MLK event on Civic engagement in January 2024. We also partnered with the public school’s health committee to register voters during vaccination and after-school learning events. From the collaboration of numerous donors, we were able to launch a mobile civic engagement unit—H.O.P.E.: Helping Our People Elevate—a retrofitted vehicle with computer stations, printers, and Wi-Fi. It will travel to historically marginalized neighborhoods with low voter engagement to educate residents about the voting process; distribute instructional materials; print sample ballots; provide absentee ballot request forms; and assist in online and paper

registration. Residents will be instructed on verifying their registration status; tracking mailed applications and ballots; finding poll locations; and identifying their elected officials. The first stop was at Quinn Chapel on Sunday, February 18, 2024.



Columbus Team—The team held a Prince Hall 3rd Masonic District Voters Awareness Forum on Wednesday, October 25, 2023. This forum focused on local candidates running for various elected office including Mayor, City Council, School Boards, and Township trustees here in Franklin County. Both candidate forums were live via Zoom. Also, these two forums were recorded and broadcast live on the Vote Awareness Ohio Facebook page for the community and our Masonic members to view or review at their pleasure. Typically, the Columbus Voter Awareness Committee hosts candidate forums for those running for elected office in the Spring primary. However, in the spring 2023 there were no contested primary races last year and all candidates running automatically advanced to the fall election on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. Furthermore, the team partnered with the Columbus League of Women Voters and the Ohio Unity Coalition to put on the Wednesday, October 25 voters forum. Furthermore, from August 5–8 during the 174th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio. The team had a voter registration/election information booth set-up. The objective for our booth was to educate our Masonic members of the importance of voting and the two statewide ballot initiatives on the ballot that fall. Also, during the 174th Annual Grand Communication, the Ohio Unity Coalition was able to stop the event with the Black Vote Matters Touring Bus to help educate people about voting, so that members attending Grand Communication could take pictures and talk to Black Vote Matters volunteers about the importance of voting. In 2024 the team held our annual Spring Primary Candidates Forum on February 21 and February 28. These two candidate forums will focus on three contested primary races—Ohio House of

Representatives, the Franklin County Prosecutor, and the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas. The election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. The Columbus Team will conduct our annual voter 's forum in October 2024 and partner with other organizations to help increase the visibility of the team and do a voter registration drive.

Springfield Team—On Thursday, February 8, 2024, at our Order of the Eastern Star meeting in Chillicothe, the importance of the upcoming voting in March's primary was stressed. At the Chillicothe NAACP meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, concerning the upcoming election, voter registration was heavily stressed to Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. who attended the Delta Foundation Luncheon Saturday, February 10, 2024, in Columbus. They assisted with the League of Women Voters by having a registration table at Ohio University. On Friday, February 9, 2024, it was also stressed at Mt. Zion Baptist Church on the importance about the primaries trying to make Southern Ohio aware.

Toledo Team—In October 2023, LL LaVera Scott spoke at the League of Women's Voters and Women for Democracy. In November 2023, GIG Keith McWhite 33° organized Roll to the Polls on Wednesday November 1, 2023. Poll Workers for November elections included LL Tanya Roach, SGLLR Charlesena Smith, Dt. Toiya Coffee, Commandress Dianne Johnson (Mecca Court 73), Sis. Clerissa Criswell. LL Scott does voter awareness and education on a radio slot on WIMX 97.5 FM radio biweekly. In January 2024, LL Roach shared voter education information for the upcoming primary elections. LL LaVera Scott did voter education at Zablocki Senior Center.

Cleveland Team—On Monday, February 19, 2024, the Four Symbolic Lodges in Cleveland, and the Ohio Council of Deliberation partnered with the Divine 9, the NAACP, and other community social organizations to hold a Cuyahoga County-wide Candidates Night. In attendance were the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master (GIG) Maurio D. Powell and Sister (LL) Jewel R. Showers, Grand Associate Conductress, Amaranth Grand Chapter. The overall agenda was to provide the candidates an opportunity to state their positions on matters that directly affect the Black community, while addressing some miscommunicated topics, (i.e., sentencing, arraignments, community control). Overall, approximately. 100 concerned citizens of Cuyahoga Citizen filled the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church. Upcoming events include "Roll to the Polls" on Saturday, March 16, 2024, with a 2 p.m. departing from the Lodge in Cleveland.

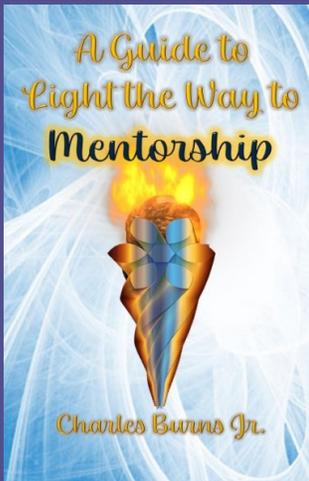
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A Guide to Light the Way to Mentorship

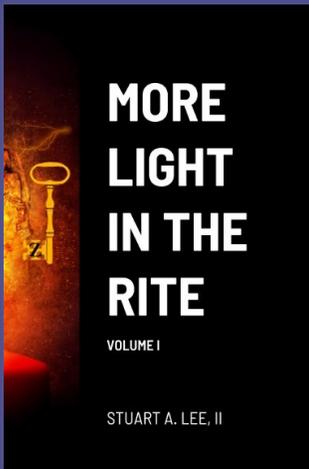
By Sovereign Grand Inspector General Charles Burns, Jr., 33°



The goal of a mentorship program is to accelerate the personal and professional development of mentees. This is achieved by providing mentees with guidance, advice and feedback from mentors who can develop an emotional bond with the mentee, have greater experience than the mentee, and can provide support, guidance, and opportunities to help youth succeed in life and meet their goals. This work provides a step by step approach on how to establish a mentoring program and provides a well-rounded methodology for creating successful mentoring experiences. Tips and techniques range from the program design and planning tools to the program marketing and tips for recruitment and retention. It is an all-inclusive guide to a successful mentorship program!!!

More Light in the Rite—Volume 1

By Sovereign Grand Inspector General Stuart A. Lee, II, 33°

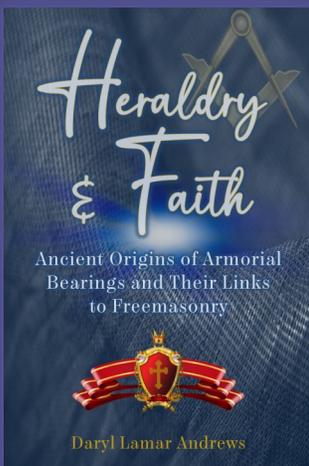


More Light in the Rite, Volume I, is a collection of lectures and essays regarding Scottish Rite Freemasonry that the author, Stuart A. Lee, II, has written during his tenure as a Prince Hall Scottish Rite Mason. In the book, he addresses several topics, including some of the life lessons taught in the various degrees, his experiences in the Scottish Rite, history, and various other topics. It's written for members new to the order as well as those that have been members for much longer.

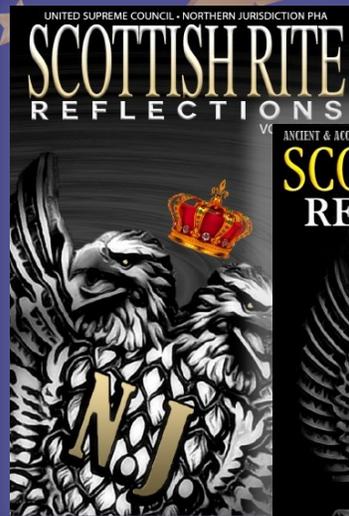
Heraldry & Faith

Ancient Origins of Armorial Bearings & Their Links to Freemasonry

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



Heraldry & Faith is a magnificent work that provides great insight into the foundations of the art and history of heraldic representations particularly for FREEMASONRY. Heraldry is as ancient as the days. It is the system by which coats of arms and other armorial bearings are created and regulated. Lineage and faith are key factors in the creation of unique bearings. Many modern heraldic emblems, especially those in Freemasonry, have evolved from the ancient empires and maintain similar meanings to their ancient predecessors. The monuments which still survive to this date bear witness to this effect.

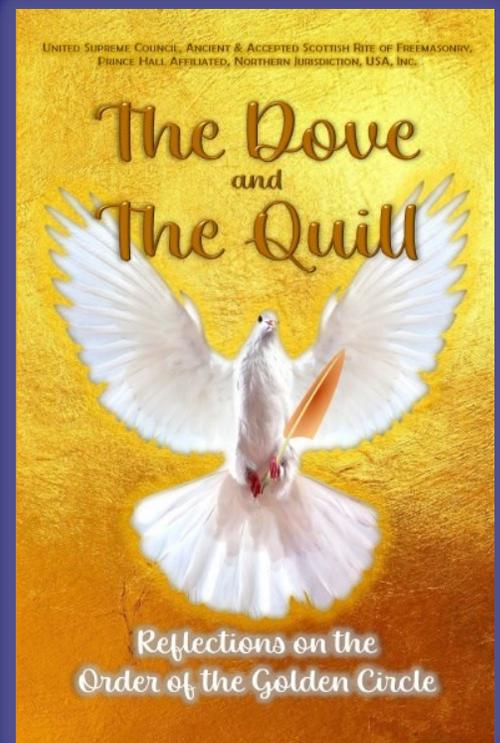


The Scottish Rite Reflections Series

The Scottish Rite Reflections series dwells on what Scottish Rite Masonry means to an individual as it relates to history, contemporary practices, and much more. The interpretation of the individual's beliefs and principles can be traced back to the origins of Freemasonry in general and Prince Hall Masonry in particular. The series will definitely capture your attention and hopefully inspire you to raise questions about the mission and doctrine of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. You may order volumes one, two or three individually or collectively via the special edition.

The Dove and The Quill

The Dove and The Quill is a stimulating way of looking at the Order of the Golden Circle, the auxiliary of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. This book examines the history, legacies, traditions, philosophies, and experiences through the eyes of members of the Order of the Golden Circle. The book uniquely addresses the question "what the Order of the Golden Circle means to me". The answer to the question is qualitatively described in articles, essays, poems, and interviews. The aforementioned sources are rich in historical and contemporary discussions. In addition, the book tells stories about the various positive impacts of the Order of the Golden Circle on the lives of individuals which highlight sisterhood, friends, leaders, and mentors. They are integral parts of the stories told. This impressive document will surely capture your attention and hopefully inspire you to raise questions about the Order of the Golden Circle.



Milwaukee
Wisconsin

143rd Annual Session of the United Supreme Council
Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation,
Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc.

2024

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Marshall E. Tharpe, 33°
Deputy-Wisconsin*

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Dr. Melvin J. bagemore, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander*

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Micah E. Tharpe, 33°
General Chairman*