

2022

The Fall Bulletin

*The Sovereign
Grand Commanders*

**James
Francis
Rickards**

*The 4 USA Legitimate
Supreme Councils*

**Statement
of UNITY**

LEADERSHIP



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
UNITED SUPREME COUNCIL
47TH TRIENNIAL SESSION
PHILADELPHIA, PA



THE BULLETIN

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

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The cutoff for the next edition is:

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STATEMENT OF UNITY CEREMONY

With the stroke of four pens, the annals of Scottish Rite history were rewritten at the House of the Temple (Southern Jurisdiction headquarters) in Washington, DC. The historic signing of the Statement of Unity by the four Sovereign Grand Commanders of the regular and recognized Supreme Councils—*United Supreme Council, AASR, PHA, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc. (USC NJ)*; *United Supreme Council, AASR, PHA, Southern Jurisdiction, USA (USC SJ)*; *Supreme Council, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, USA (NMJ)*; and *Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction, USA (SJ)*—was an idea born out of the Sovereign Grand Commander Summit held June 7, 2022, and realized on Wednesday, September 7, 2022.

Thirty-three (33) guests from all four Supreme Councils witnessed the ceremony which was opened with the Invocation delivered by SGIG Leonard Proden, 33°, District of Columbia (SJ). Channeling the late, great Archbishop Desmond Tutu, he quoted a text from “The Testament of Cardinal Mercier”—“In order to unite with one another we must love one another. In order to love one another we must know one another. To know one another we must go and meet one another.” An apropos message for a ceremony of unity.

Master of Ceremony and Deputy for the Orient of the District of Columbia (USC SJ) SGIG Eric F. Konohia 33°, Deputy, Orient of the District of Columbia (USC SJ) requested that the distinguished group of Sovereign Grand Commanders approach the podium to speak on the significance of the occasion.

Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore (USC NJ) delivered a powerful oration (see next page). His comments concluded by thanking his counterparts for their vision and cooperation in arriving at this event of historical significance. He reserved the greatest gratitude for Sovereign Grand Commander James D. Cole (SJ) and his staff who worked tirelessly to make this event a success.

Sovereign Grand Commander Peter J. Samiec (NMJ) highlighted that ceremonies are a part of life, but this ceremony has “no peer.” He further stated that the four Sovereign Grand Commanders “...provide living proof that diversity and harmony are not exclusive, but are conjoined under the brotherhood of man and fatherhood of God.”

Sovereign Grand Commander Corey D. Hawkins Sr. Esq. (USC SJ) reminded all that the purpose of this event was historic and its significance will exist beyond the lives of the participants and witnesses. He further stated that “beyond the four of us...there are no others”. He was proud to have the opportunity to literally “make order out of chaos.”

Sovereign Grand Commander James D. Cole (SJ) provided background on the genesis of the event and future expectations as recognition and solidarity were the first steps. Cross collaboration will be forthcoming. He closed with “Our Supreme Architect will smile down on us and will say to us ‘Well done my good and faithful servants.’”

- Sovereign Grand Inspector General Reginald B. Stewart, Grand Historian

OFFICE OF THE SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER

As we have completed three quarters of the year 2022, a great deal of milestones, honors and historic moments have been realized due to the blessings of our Heavenly Father. On May 7, 2022, I received the degree of Honorary Dr. Humane Letters from Wilberforce University, the nation's oldest private, Historically Black College or University. This institution places its founding to the year 1856 in the great state of Ohio and has remained a stalwart institution for higher education for all. We also concluded a successful 47th Triennial Session in the month of May in the City of Brotherly Love, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Our Holy See now resides on "United Supreme Council Way" on a historic renaming ceremony. Visitations at our Triennial not only included representation from the legitimate Supreme Councils in America but also from the Supreme Council of Haiti in the person of Sovereign Grand Commander Gaetan Mentor. The Samuel J.D. Shook Jr. Class of 2022 in addition to other highlights marked this session, the first in-person session since the COVID-19 pandemic, a historic session indeed.

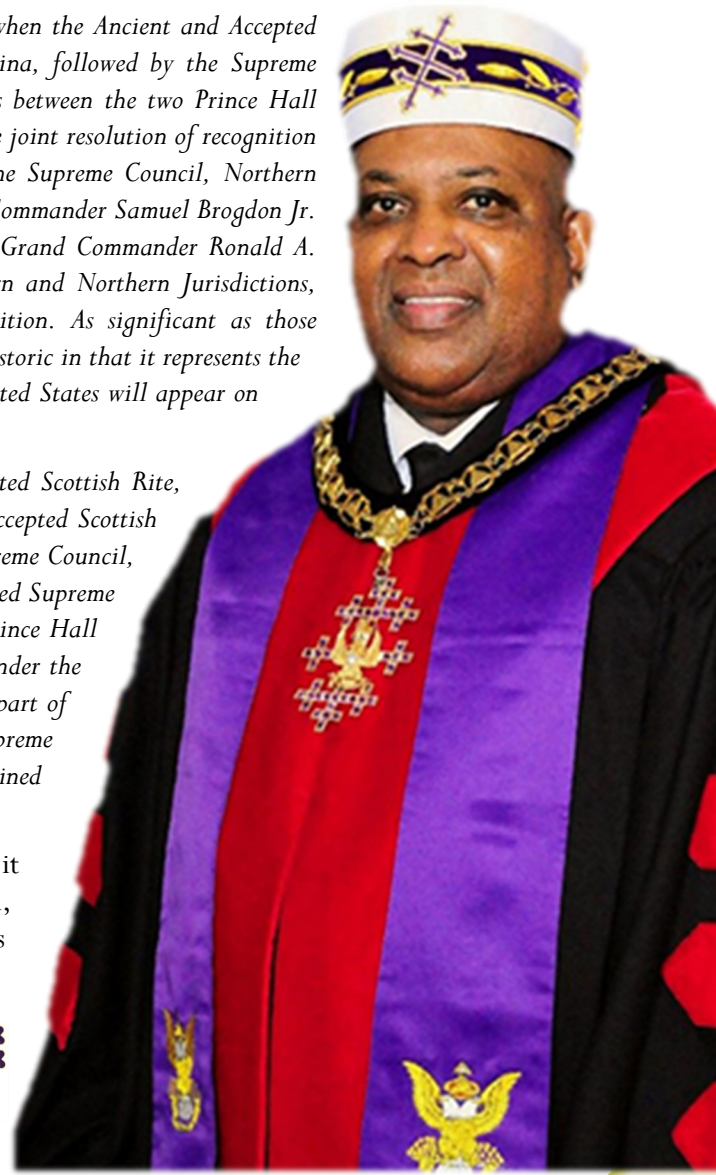


In the month of June, I met with the Sovereign Grand Commanders of the legitimate Supreme Councils in the United States of America on June 7, 2022 at a historic session. Together, we resolved to create a Statement of Unity and work within these boundaries to ensure cohesion and synchronicity between our Supreme Councils. This culminated in a significant historic event on September 7, 2022 in which we, the four Sovereign Grand Commanders, signed the declaration pledging to work together to secure the legacy of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry through mutual recognition and joint ventures for posterity. In my capacity as Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction USA, Inc., I addressed the audience as follows:

Today, September 7, 2022 represents the culmination of the work begun when the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry began in 1801 in Charleston, South Carolina, followed by the Supreme Council, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. The formation in the late 1800s between the two Prince Hall Affiliated Supreme Council's signing of the articles of union, followed by the joint resolution of recognition between the United Supreme Council, Northern Jurisdiction (PHA) and the Supreme Council, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction dated January 23, 1995, signed by Sovereign Grand Commander Samuel Brogdon Jr. and Sovereign Grand Commander Robert O. Ralston. In 2013 Sovereign Grand Commander Ronald A. Seale extended recognition to both the United Supreme Councils, Southern and Northern Jurisdictions, PHA where their respective Grand Lodges were also in fraternal recognition. As significant as those individual acts of recognition are, I submit that this occasion is even more historic in that it represents the first time the signatures of the four recognized Supreme Councils in the United States will appear on one document, signifying the unity between our respective Supreme Councils.

The Statement of Unity between the Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction; United Supreme Council, 33°, of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliated, Southern Jurisdiction; The Supreme Council, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction and The United Supreme Council, 33°, of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliated, Northern Jurisdiction is one of the true examples of operating under the fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man. I am extremely proud to be a part of this historic moment in history and pledge the fidelity of the United Supreme Council, Northern Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliated, to the tenants contained within this Statement of Unity.

There is still room for more history to be made particularly as it relates to enhancing the Scottish Rite Experience. I encourage you, Fraters and Loyal Ladies, to roll up your sleeves and help to make this United Supreme Council the organization of which we can all be proud.



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



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GRAND COMMANDER

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



On Behalf of my wife Marcia and myself “A HEARTFELT THANKS” for your cards, gifts and continued prayers. God’s blessings continue to come down each and every day with my recovery. It’s been said that God works in mysterious ways. “And we know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love him,” who “have been called according to his purpose.” ... Romans 8:28 NIV - “HE IS NOT THROUGH WITH ME YET”.

Time is drawing near for our “Annual Donation” to the “Benevolent Foundation”. The Honorable Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, SGC will be requesting your support. If you prefer not to send a Check /M.O., please check our website for other methods of payment.

Your ACTIONS ENCOURAGE and INSPIRE others to strive to reach our goals “United in Service and Commitment, Action, Accountability with Sustainable Results”.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE HOLY EMPIRE

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



First giving honor to the G.A.O.T.U. for his many blessings. It is my hope that all is well with you and your families. Through the past couple of months we have started to meet openly but, COVID is still lifting its ugly head so we recommend that you get your shots, boosters and continue to wear your masks, wash hands, and be particularly attentive around crowds.

The Office of the Secretary General is planning to utilize electronic communication more going forward into the future for this organization. We will be able to reach out to our membership faster and receiving information back from you in a more expeditious manner, through the internet, email and other electronic means. We will be able to save this organization thousands of dollars in printing cost and save the environment.

The United Supreme Council has just come off of what we believe was a very successful Annual Session this past May. We believe that

everyone had a very enjoyable time, taking advantage of the seminars and other events that many of you took advantage of with very few incidents. We sent out a survey on the likes and dislikes coming out of that session and through those finding we are developing ways that we can improve going forward.

We are now making plans for the Mid-Year Deputy’s Conference to be held in January 2023, in Cherry Hill, NJ. At this meeting we will continue to “Enhance the Scottish Rite Experience” for the membership. We will also be preparing for our Annual Session for 2023 to be held in Denver, CO, May 26–30, 2023. In your preparation for the Mile High City, please remember to bring and take your medications where needed, because the air is very thin and we must take every precaution. Please avail yourselves to the many eateries and sites the city has to offer.

Under the Leadership of Sovereign Grand Commander Melvin J. Bazemore, 33°, we are working with our leader to make the United Supreme Council, NJ, PHA, Inc., the premier Supreme Council in Scottish Rite Masonry. Looking forward to seeing you all very soon, but in the meantime be safe and may God bless.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND RECORDING SECRETARY

by Sovereign Grand Inspector General Daniel R. Poole, 33°

Greetings, I would like to say thank you to the Team of Teams that helped make our Annual Session a success. The work done ensured we had the best experience possible coming off a two year hiatus. We received feedback in our first ever annual session survey. We received over 500 responses and the cabinet has reviewed every comment and have taken several recommendations for action to improve. We don't want to overlook the OVERwhelming positive comments that were received. Many think a survey is just to complain, it is not, 94% of the comments were positive and very receptive to the changes and safeguards implemented at this session. We look forward to continuing to Enhance the Scottish Rite Experience. Two new Committees were stood up this session: Department of Education and Training led by Ill. Dwayne Thomas and the Civic Engagement and Social Justice led Ill. Carl Drummer. We look forward to seeing the impact these sub committees have in the near future. I wish each of you a happy holiday season. Keep Making A Difference!



FROM THE EDITOR OF THE BULLETIN

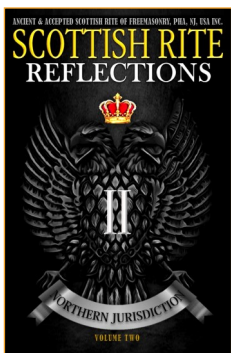
Sovereign Grand Inspector General Daryl L. Andrews, 33°

It was indeed a privilege to meet and greet all of you at our 47th Triennial. I received great feedback. Changes have been implemented based on suggestions and interests including new columns. Send your feedback today to Bulletin@AndrewsPress.com, help us to grow and be counted as below:

- “As an Alpha, I appreciated the articles on Ill. Sumner Furniss and the linkage between Freemasonry and Black Greek Letter Organizations. The history was on point.”
- “While the article titled ‘Elevation is Not a Trophy’ provided great insight, it got lost in the layout. The page was too dark. It was a great piece though. Expand on it!”
- “I had no idea on the roots of my Consistory. Thanks for taking the mystery out of it. Also, you should consider a feedback section for the Bulletin to showcase commentary.”
- “Consider printing articles on two/three columns per page for ease of reading.”
- “Spotlights on the Golden Circle had never been done before to my knowledge. The caliber of Loyal Ladies that we have is extraordinary but why are spotlights on them being done?”
- “I read my husband’s copy of the Bulletin. Thank you for spotlighting the Loyal Ladies. Sometimes, it feels that we are understated and not being counted. This made me feel good.”



Other feedback on the Sovereign Grand Commanders Series has generated great interest in the early 20th Century leaders. As such, Illustrious James Francis Rickards receives the shine in this edition. While history is our backbone, the strategy of the United Supreme Council is our present and future. Revisit it at www.USCNJPHA.org today.



SCOTTISH RITE REFLECTIONS—VOLUME 3: We are now accepting submissions for VOLUME THREE of Scottish Rite Reflections. Take some time to articulate “What the Scottish Rite Means to You” and forward your submission(s) to Bulletin@AndrewsPress.com by March 1, 2023.

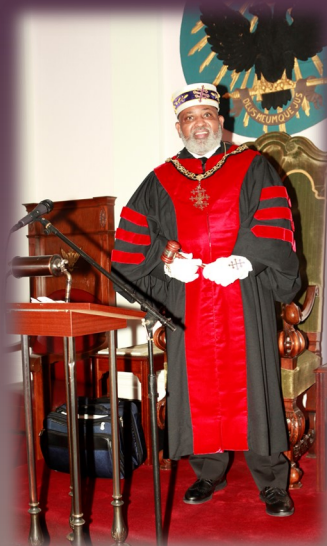
THE DOVE & THE QUILL—VOLUME 1: Feel free to inform ALL Loyal Ladies that they may now contribute submissions on the meaning of the Order of the Golden Circle in their lives to OGC@AndrewsPress.com by February 1, 2023.

Thanks for your support and input. Keep them coming to help us grow!!!



United Supreme Council

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, PTA
Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc.



The 47th Triennial of the United Supreme Council began with an official welcome by the City of Brotherly Love at City Hall in Philadelphia, PA.



47th Triennial Session

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

May 26-31, 2022



The resolution was received by SGC Melvin J. Bazemore and Most Worshipful Brother Donald C. Jones, Grand Master of Pennsylvania Prince Hall Masons.





FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND PRIOR

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Rev. Dr. Wilton E. Blake, I, 33^o

A LIFE-CHANGING LESSON

Years ago, a man learned a life-changing lesson after starting a new job. He wanted to connect with some of his coworkers, particularly with a group of employees who seemed friendly and fun. One day, someone in the group invited the new hire to join them for lunch, and soon he was a regular in their lunchtime conversations.

But before long, the new employee noticed that the topic of conversation always focused on the other workers in the office never in their hearing, and never the kind of things those coworkers would enjoy hearing. The group would laugh and tell stories, making fun of certain workers and criticizing or complaining about others. After a while, the man had a simple but powerful thought: “What are they saying about me when I’m not here?”

In a rush of acute awareness, he realized that he did not trust these coworkers. He had always assumed that they never made fun of him – but suddenly he wasn’t sure. The man decided to find colleagues who were trustworthy friends. And he resolved to be more trustworthy himself.

It’s relatively easy to be loyal and kind to people in their presence, especially when it benefits us in some way. It takes integrity to be compassionate also to those who are absent, who may not be in a position to notice and reward our loyalty. In our natural desire to fit in, we sometimes draw boundary lines that exclude others. Too often, we think we’ll feel more accepted if others are rejected. All that creates, however is a false sense of closeness.

There is a better way. Think about how you feel around people who are genuinely kind, who look for the best in everyone, and who refuse to take the bait when someone starts to belittle or gossip. Thank of the confidence a husband and wife feel knowing of each other’s loyalty, in word and deed, even when they are apart. Imagine how the world might be different if we all sought acceptance by accepting others, if fitting in meant making room, if we treated others the way we hope they would treat us. THAT WOULD BE A LIFE-CHANGING LESSON.

Taken from: “Music and the Spoken Word: A Life-Changing Lesson”



As the USC Registration Committee and the Pennsylvania State Grand Assembly continued to receive registrants and provide information for the events, reports from Financial Officers were presented during the morning session concluding with the reclassification of several to Active and Emeritus status.



MUSIC AND THE PREACHED WORD AT THE 47TH TRIENNIAL

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Daryl L. Andrews, 33^o

Music soothes the soul and helps to promote a solemn mood for the Memorial and Morning Worship Services. While recorded music is beneficial, live music by professional musicians is a luxury. It forces one to marvel at the gifts that have been bestowed upon our brethren and sets an excellent stage upon which messengers of the Most-High can deliver.

With the stage set, the messages offered by the ministers at the 47th Triennial certainly hit their marks. They focused on a sense of duty despite the tides and were felt by the spirits of all who attended the services. Hats off to the choir, to the soloist GIG, to the organist GIG Anderson Edwards and to the musical staff for creating an atmosphere that placed all in the appropriate mindset. While “Shook Time” is typically echoed, “No Cross No Crown” by SGIG Rev. Herman J. Simpson from the Sunday Morning Worship Service also permeated many conversations. The soul stirring epithet offered by GIG Bishop Jeffrey N. Leah lit a fire underneath the Fraters during the Memorial Service that is also still burning hot. The Holy Spirit definitely guided the hands of SGIG Rev. Dr. Wilton E. Blake I, SGIG Rev. Dr. James H. Willis Sr. and the entire staff on a job well done.

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not charity then I am nothing.” By definition, charity is love in action. The charitable works of the Scottish Rite are plentiful and provide evidence that divine intervention is at play. So, let us continue our great works with guidance from our Heavenly Father, that they shall be successful and reap bountiful harvests for those who need it most through charity.



A highlight was the renaming of Fitzwater Street to United Supreme Council Way.



OUR HISTORY SHOULD NOT BE A MYSTERY: XVI

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Reginald B. Stewart, 33°

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CONSISTORIES ORIGINATED?

Coincident with the cover story being about our 9th Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander James F. (Francis) Rickards 33° I thought it would be fitting to only include one profile this issue—that of his Consistory—Wolverine Consistory No. 6.

WOLVERINE CONSISTORY NO. 6

Valley of Detroit, Orient of Michigan, Chartered May 9, 1904/Instituted June 6, 1904

There was a “Negro” Scottish Rite presence in the Orient of Michigan as early as 1890. Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander Thornton A. Jackson 33° of the United Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction (USC SJ) appointed a Robert C. Waring as Deputy. A Consistory was chartered in the Valley of Detroit under USC SJ sometime between 1890 and 1894 (no name has been found). There are no records of its activity after July 1897.

Wolverine Consistory was organized under the obedience of the United Supreme Council, Northern Jurisdiction (USC NJ) by then S.P. James F. Rickards

32° in what was a harbinger of future leadership. As we should all know he progressed steadily through Scottish Rite leadership by being Elevated, Coroneted, Crowned, and ultimately Elected to be our ninth Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander.

Originally numbered “No. 13” (following the chartering of Mount Sinai Consistory #12, Valley of Providence, Orient of Rhode Island) the number was later changed, and the Consistory was assigned the number “6”. The number “6” was available due to the original Consistory #6—King Solomon in the Valley of Boston—going defunct

in 1899. Wolverine Consistory was subsequently assigned as “#6.”

The “Wolverine” name almost certainly derives from the State of Michigan carrying the nickname “The Wolverine State.” Also, around the same time there was in existence a Major League Baseball team named the Detroit Wolverines. Now the “wolverine” name is most often associated with the University of Michigan sports teams. Curiously wolverines are not native to Michigan and have been rarely spotted there.

The breadth and depth of the membership includes those awarded the



The United Supreme Council Samuel J.D. Shook Class of 2022 was also presented. In honor of the late Dean of Instruction for the United Supreme Council, his widow was given a special presentation on behalf of the Class. The class was also the recipient of a lecture by GIG Damien Jack of the USC PHA SJ.



Gold Medal of Achievement:

- *SGIG Booker T. Alexander 33°—1958*
- *GIG Coleman A. Young 33°—1974*
- *SGIG Homer E. Gaines 33°—1986*
- *GIG Marcellus Stepp 33°—1988*
- *GIG Dennis W. Archer 33°—2006*
- *SGIG Melvin J. Bazemore 33°—2010*
- *SGIG Edward B. Darnell 33°—2011*
- *SGIG Robert P. Lewis 33°—2011*
- *SGIG William G. Hunter 33°—2011*
- *SGIG Christopher Buck 33°—2017*
- *SGIG Horace J. Jackson 33°—2019*
- *SGIG Wayne E. Phillips 33°—2020*

Members of Wolverine have also enjoyed the privilege of being elected the President of their respective Classes:

- *SGIG William G. “Billy” Hunter 33°—Homer E. Gaines Class of 1993*
- *SGIG Clarence L. Stone Sr. 33°—Frank M. Summers Class of 1996*
- *SGIG Wayne E. Phillips 33°—Carl L. Wilson Class of 2007*
- *SGIG Robert Schumake 33°—Winston O. Williams Class of 2010*

Four members are namesakes of a Class of Grand Inspectors General:

- *R.W.J. Jeffery Class of 1957—He was the first PHA Frater to wear the 33° ring as we know it today; Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief and Deputy for the Orient of Michigan; Illustrious Grand Recording Secretary and Illustrious Grand Minister of State.*
- *Homer E. Gaines Class of 1993—Past Grand Master, MWP HGL of Michigan; Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief and Deputy for the Orient of Michigan; and uncle of current Deputy at Large SGIG Edward B. Darnell 33°.*
- *Booker T. Alexander Class of 1995—He was an Imperial Potentate, AEAONMS; Past Grand Master, MWP HGL of Michigan; and Sovereign Grand Commander, USC NJ.*
- *Billy G. Hunter Class of 2017—He was an Active USC NJ member.*

An intriguing tidbit of information is that two members of Wolverine also

have Consistories named in their honor—Homer E. Gaines Consistory #112, Valley of Grand Rapids, Orient of Michigan and Booker T. Alexander Consistory #117, Valley of Bamberg (Germany), Orient of Europe.

Similar to four other Consistories—

- *DeMolay Consistory #1, Valley of Philadelphia, Orient of Pennsylvania;*
- *King David Consistory #3, Valley of New York City, Orient of New York;*
- *New Haven Consistory #7, Valley of New Haven, Orient of Connecticut*
- *Bezaleel Consistory #15, Valley of Cleveland, Orient of Ohio*

at least two Sovereign Grand Commanders have called Wolverine Consistory #6 home. In Wolverine’s case it is three as the 20th and current Sovereign Grand Commander, Illustrious Melvin J. Bazemore 33° holds membership in this Consistory.



Following the weekend sessions, a grand show of entertainment sponsored by the Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation was on full display on Friday and Saturday.



SAVING OUR YOUTH: “From Cradle to College”

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General Horace J. Jackson, 33°, Chairman
& Sovereign Grand Inspector General Charles Burns, Jr. 33°, Asst. Chairman*



Continued thanks to our participating Orients (Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, and Washington/Oregon) for all their support. During the pandemic, we have had to curtail our mentoring programs. Hopefully, our nation is getting back to normal, and we can resume our full mentoring activities. We do have two informational reports of our mentoring efforts this year, which are included below.

Below are four mentoring takeaways I learned as a mentor this past year. Think about these tips for your positive mentoring experience.

1. PUSH THINGS FORWARD

One of the benefits of being a mentor is the influx of fresh ideas from your mentees. Your mentees will inject new energy into your workshops or meetings. Don't feel threatened, as today's new approaches assist you with what you already do well. A new perspective helps you think of new and different opportunities.

2. FOCUS ON THE FUNDAMENTALS

Ask yourself and your mentee questions such as: What is the important learning that you need for your success? Can you speak about your goals? There is no one better equipped to offer a fresh take on the core basics of the relationship than your mentee. At this stage, they don't have any emotional attachment to what you've created for your course. Thus, it's easier for them to pinpoint the big ideas without bias.

Orient of Michigan—Valley of Detroit

SGIG Christopher Buck, 33°—Deputy for the Orient

GIG Karl E. D'Abreu, Sr.—Mentoring Coordinator

This conversation is about lessons learned while mentoring. Taking on a mentoring role can be challenging, even for a seasoned mentor. When done properly, it demands time and energy from both parties. However, working together can be fun and stimulating within a mentoring relationship. The mentee wants a safe place to learn and grow. The mentor wants to give that with the right amount of structure and support.



The United Supreme Council Annual Session was called to order by LGC Broadnax. Sovereign Grand Commander Bazemore was escorted into the Chamber by



Honorary membership was granted to each Sovereign Grand Commander. SGC Bazemore and SGC Hawkins received the same from the SGC Mentor of Haiti.

3. PERSONALIZE THE EXPERIENCE; MAKE NO ASSUMPTIONS

With the hectic pace of daily life and the academic school year, it's easy to forget daily civilities and meeting mentees where they are. A simple good morning, or how was your weekend? What are you doing this week? Small talk carries a lot of weight in building relationships.

In relationships, it's the little things that matter, especially when the daily stress levels of the mentee may be elevated. There are many ways to address these details, and get to know each other in building the mentor mentee relationship:

- Share your strengths and weaknesses
- Connect your mentor skill sets to the mentee's goals, be a resource
- Humanize your experience
- Discuss a major success and an epic fail you've had in life, and how you overcame it
- Laugh a little, have fun learning and mentoring

4. CHANNEL THE POSITIVE YOU

Both mentor and mentee will have days when everything is clicking the right way. And as mentors we've all gotten into a flow-like state, engaging students and mentoring effortlessly. But how about those days when things are less than stellar? Maybe you feel tired. Maybe technology is giving you the business. In those circumstances, it's easy to feel negative,

pessimistic, and helpless. However, you know you, recalibrate yourself, be positive. Become an inspiration, work as a team with your mentee and discover new strategies for your own personal bag of resources.

**Orient of Washington & Oregon
Valleys of Spokane/Pasco and Olympia
SGIG Gregory Wraggs, 33° - Deputy for the Orient**

The Fraters in Pasco, WA have logged in about 60 hours of mentoring in a High School (two of the fraters are also coaching golf and football during the year).

***** GOOD NEWS *****

The Mentoring Committee will be distributing a detailed and comprehensive Mentoring Guide entitled "A Guide to Light The Way", to all the Deputies of our United Supreme Council. This extraordinary guide was developed by SGIG Charles Burns, Jr., 33°, Mentoring Committee Assistant Chairman. We hope it will assist those interested in starting a program or enhance an existing program. The Mentoring Committee will begin mailing the Guide in September 2022. There is no charge for the first copy. If any Deputy wishes to receive more copies, there will be a nominal cost for each additional copy. If desired, Deputies can distribute copies to Mentoring Coordinators, Consistories, or Fraters. The Mentoring Committee is here to help. Let us know what we can do to assist you.



the Honor Guard. At his order, the representatives of the Scottish Rite from legitimate Supreme Councils and Grand Master Jones were received with honors.



The Conference of Grand Masters, Shrine and York Rite were on site to witness SGC Bazemore's allocation and officer reports before the evening banquet.

THE GOLDEN LIGHT:



STATE GRAND LOYAL LADY RULER SAUNDRA M. FLOYD

State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Sandra M. Floyd is a native of Millsboro, Delaware who spent her early years traveling with her military family from duty station to duty station. She attended Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia where she received her

BS degree in Education. She retired from Walmart Logistics as an Operations Manager in 2018.

Sandra was married to the late Steven R. Floyd Sr for 29 years. They were blessed with 3 wonderful children—Candyss, Steven Jr. and Chyvante; and 3 wonderful grandsons—Bryson (Acey), Caison (Deucy) and Cameron (Trey). She is a member of various organizations in Delaware including Rock of Ages Chapter #15, OES, PHA of Milford for over 25 years and served as Worthy Matron from 2008-10. She is now the Grand Conductress of St. Matthews Grand Chapter, OES-PHA of Delaware.

SGLLR Floyd is a Past Loyal Lady Ruler of Milton Assembly #81 and presently serves as the State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler of the State Grand Assembly of Delaware, Order of the Golden Circle. She was very instrumental in establishing Dover Assembly #96. She served as the LLR during a most recent virtual initiation which increased Milton's membership—a much needed and successful event. She has served as the Illustrious Commandress and President of the Past Commandress Council of Fez Court #211, Oasis of

Dover, Desert of Delaware, where she is a charter member. She received the distinction of Honorary Past Imperial Commandress of the Imperial Court in August of 2021 and serves as the Imperial Deputy Directress of the Daughters Training Academy within the Imperial Court Education Development Division. She is also a member of Rebekah Court #5, Heroines of Jericho-PHA. In her free time, Sandra enjoys traveling, shopping and most importantly giving to the community through the Steven R. Floyd Sr. Memorial Foundation. She has been very successful in leading the Delaware State Grand Assembly.

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

LOYAL LADY ALICIA REESE

Loyal Lady Alicia Reese made history in her usual vocation by becoming the first Black woman in Hamilton County to be elected and serve in city, state and county offices. She has served as a member of the Cincinnati City Council; Vice Mayor of Cincinnati; Ohio State Representative; and now sits as a Hamilton County Commissioner. She is also an entrepreneur and serves as an Advertising, Marketing and Political Consultant. She is definitely the embodiment of "Being the Example."



- Sovereign Grand Inspector General Carl A. Williams, 33^o, Deputy



SGIG Leonard A. Heard, Host Deputy, called the banquet to order. After prayer, Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthems, a sumptuous dinner was served.




Special presentations were given to the widow of SGIG Shook and national charities. Service Awards were then presented to the Fraters and Loyal Ladies.



SHOWCASING OUR LOYAL LADIES

PAST STATE GRAND LOYAL LADY RULER JERRIE L. COLEMAN




PSGLLR Jerrie L. Coleman became a member of the Alaskanite Assembly #76 in 1984. She began her climb to the Grand Assembly as the Outer Guard and worked her way through all of the seats. She served as the secretary in her Assembly holding that seat for three years learning what was necessary for the Assembly run smoothly and in harmony. As the Loyal Lady Ruler of Alaskanite Assembly in 1989, she continued the programs that were already set in place such as supporting the Abused Women's Aid In Crisis (AWAIC) Shelter, selecting a family, and providing their children with everything on their list for Christmas.

She started her climb in the Grand Assembly outside of the door also. She was installed as the Alaska State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler on October 6, 2001, by Ruben L. Jackson 33°, Deputy of the Orient. She held this seat for 12 years and served during the administrations of SGIG Raymond Coleman Jr., followed by the current Deputy, SGIG Clifford Hastings. As SGLLR many fundraisers, such as talent shows, and other events were held throughout the Orient. One of her signature events was an Annual Tea held during the month of December in which the female relatives of Fraters were invited. This was an opportunity for these

women to learn about the Loyal Ladies and for the Loyal Ladies to build relationships with them. Due to these relationships the Assembly attracted new members.

PSGLLR Coleman passed the gavel in October of 2014. She went on to serve as Grand Worthy Matron of the Prince Hall Grand Chapter, OES from 2016-18. When she stepped down as Grand Worthy Matron, she relocated to New Jersey to be with her family. She is still an active member of the Grand Assembly, always willing to support the Orient and give wise counsel whenever called.

- Sovereign Grand Inspector General Clifford Hastings, 33°, Deputy LOYAL LADY BRENDA WRAGGS



Loyal Lady Brenda Wraggs was the very first recipient of the Diversity Collective Inspiring Hope Award from the Pierce County Juvenile Court System of Washington State. She provided services to help educate caregivers and children on how to manage a child's hair care needs. She gave of her time and secured a variety of hair care products that each child and caregiver could take home. Congratulations!!!

- Sovereign Grand Inspector General Gregory Wraggs, 33°, Deputy



Annual donations to the United Supreme Council Benevolent Fund were received along with tributes to SGC Bazemore for his leadership and service.



VETERANS AFFAIRS



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

USC VETERANS RESOURCE COMMITTEE HOSTS VETS' BENEFITS SYMPOSIUM AT 141ST ANNUAL SESSION

Through the efforts of the United Supreme Council Veterans' Resource Committee and under the leadership of SGIG Eugene Anderson, Jr., 33°, our Supreme Council is taking active steps to ensure Veterans and their family

members are aware of federal, state, and local benefits for which they are eligible. The committee is composed of Veteran volunteers with a passion for serving others. They are dispersed across five subcommittees that focus on claims, benefits, legislation, employment, and women Veterans.

During the 141st Annual Session of the United Supreme Council, the Veterans' Resource Committee hosted a Veterans' Benefits Symposium. Nearly 250 people attended the event. Committee members GIG George E. Forest, 33° (Ohio), GIG Tyrone K. Cook, 33° (Europe) and GIG Dr. Lawrence Carter, 33° (Pennsylvania), provided information on claims, benefits, legislation, and federal employment. The event's highlight was an interactive presentation given by GIG Dandrick L. Gallegos, 33° (Far East).

GIG Gallegos serves on the claims subcommittee and works for the Department of Veterans Affairs. He has

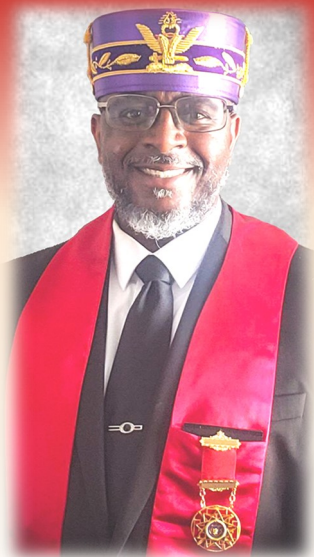
volunteered his time and expertise to assist the USC with "Enhancing the Scottish Rite Experience" for its Veterans and their family members. He discussed filing VA disability claims, the records needed to file, and the critical elements required for the service-connection of a disability. Additionally, he answered questions from the audience regarding a myriad of VA subjects. In this issue of the USC Bulletin's Veterans' column, I'd like to further address some of those questions.

How may I upgrade my military discharge characterization?

"Each of the military services maintains a discharge review board with authority to change, correct or modify discharges or dismissals that are not issued by a sentence of a general courts-martial. The board has no authority to address medical discharges. The Veteran or, if the Veteran is deceased or incompetent, the surviving spouse, next of kin or legal representative may apply for a review of discharge by writing to the military department concerned, using DoD Form 293. This form may be obtained at a VA regional office, from veterans' organizations or on the Internet: <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/formsprogram.htm>. However, if the discharge was more than 15 years ago, a veteran must petition the appropriate service Board for Correction of Military Records using DoD Form 149, which is discussed in the "Correction of Military Records" section of this booklet. A discharge review is conducted by a review of an applicant's record and, if requested, a hearing before the board."¹

How do I obtain a copy of my Military Treatment Records?

Records may be electronically requested through the National Archives at <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records> or by completing the SF-180 Request Pertaining to Military Records. To obtain a copy of records possessed by the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), such as evidence used in support of disability claims, compensation and pension exams, etc., complete VA Form 20-10206, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) or Privacy Act (PA) request and submit it to the VBA. A Veteran Service Officer may assist you with this task.



GIG George E. Forest, 33° delivering a presentation on Department of Veteran's Affairs Benefits in support of the Veterans' Benefits Symposium at the 141st Annual Session of the United Supreme Council.



GIG Dandrick L. Gallegos, 33° delivering a presentation on Department of Veterans' Affairs disability claims in support of the Veterans' Benefits Symposium at the 141st Annual Session of the United Supreme Council.

What are some ways to stay abreast of new legislation?

Proposed rules and publication of rules are posted on the Federal Register at <https://www.federalregister.gov>. "The Federal Register is the official daily publication for rules, proposed rules, and notices of Federal agencies and organizations, as well as executive orders and other presidential documents."² A person may visit the website, establish an account, and automatically receive notifications on different areas, including veteran-related issues. Additionally, an individual may comment on a proposed rule change, etc., before being finalized.

Individuals may also stay informed on congressional and state legislative actions by establishing personal accounts with the following websites and electing for automated alerts of the introduction, passage, and enactment of legislation.

- <https://www.congress.gov/>
- <https://www.govtrack.us/>
- <https://www.billtrack50.com/account/search/bill>

Additionally, congressional hearings on Veteran related legislation may be viewed on some of these websites.

Regarding the Department of Defense Expanding Access to Military Commissaries, Exchanges, and Recreation Facilities.

"Veterans eligible solely under Section 1065 of Title 10, United States Code, (Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, and veterans with a Department of Veterans Affairs-documented service-connected disability rating between 0-90%) who are eligible to obtain a Veteran Health

Identification Card (VHIC) must obtain a VHIC from the VA to facilitate DoD and Coast Guard installation and privilege access. The VHIC must display the eligibility status "PURPLE HEART", "FORMER POW" or "SERVICE CONNECTED". Visit <https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic> for information regarding eligibility for the VHIC and the application process."³

Regarding filing a claim for exposure to particulate matter while serving in Southwest Asia.

"To be eligible for benefits for asthma, rhinitis, or sinusitis, you must have gotten one of these conditions within 10 years of your separation from active military service."⁴ When filing for any of these disabilities, ensure you have a medical diagnosis of the condition(s).

In closing, the USC Veterans Benefits Symposium was very informative and successful. The committee intends to make it an even better in the following years. We welcome your input, feedback, and suggestions to make improvements and enhance the Scottish Rite experience for our Veterans and their family members.

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2. GOV.INFO. Federal Register. About the Federal Register. Accessed from <https://www.govinfo.gov/help/> on June 7, 2022
3. U.S. Department of Defense. Release: Department of Defense Expanding Access to Military Commissaries, Exchanges and Recreation Facilities. Accessed from <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Factsheets/expanding-access-fact-sheet.pdf> on June 7, 2022
4. U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. Disability Benefits. Exposure to Specific Environmental Hazards. Accessed from <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/specific-environmental-hazards/> on June 7, 2022



GIG Tyrone K. Cook, 33° delivering a presentation on Veterans' Preference and Federal Employment in support of the Veterans' Benefits Symposium at the 141st Annual Session of the United Supreme Council.

THE USC SOCIAL JUSTICE & CIVIC ACTION COMMITTEE

Grand Inspector General John Hill, 33°

Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore stated during his Sovereign Grand Commander allocution at the 141st Annual Session, "...for as Scottish Rite Masons, one of our obligations is uniting all masons of all Rites and degrees together over the face of the earth for the purpose of producing peace, harmony, and concert of action against the enemies of superstition, fanaticism, sectarianism and bigotry." One way that we shall combat these enemies is to educate our communities on the importance and significance of understanding and preparing for new public policy realities. To assist the Rite in these efforts, the Social Justice and Civic Action Committee has been created under the authority of Sovereign Grand Commander Bazemore. Led by SGIG Carl Drummer (Deputy, Orient of Indiana, pictured), the initial team includes SGIG John Bettis, GIG Michael Wiggins, GIG John Hill and GIG Korlon Kilpatrick.



topics we address to improve our communities. Over time we intend to develop our media skills to better present the voice of the United Supreme Council utilizing a variety of media outlets and tools such as continuing to develop press releases and enhancing the use of The Bulletin to communicate our concerns. Also, we will grow our social media presence and expand into video, audio and other communication devices to share internally and externally the important issues for the members of our Northern Jurisdiction as conveyed by our Sovereign Grand Commander.

We intend to bring collective energy and engagement to the ideas we support. Through this committee, the United Supreme Council hopes to get back to its roots and be on the forefront of social and civic issues. Once the committee has stabilized and the Orients have developed their respective Civic Engagement teams, the committee will look to expand our impact through strategic partnerships with national advocacy organizations. In addition, we shall look to provide templates to help Orients and Valleys to host events that bring visibility to the causes we support and encourage.

THE INITIAL CONSTRUCT OF THE COMMITTEE

The Social Justice and Civic Action Committee will develop a holistic approach to how fraters can engage in and promote social equity in their respective communities. Leveraging political engagement as a tool to shape and influence social action and public policy issues. While there will be a core group of fraters focused on the overarching strategic vision and direction, the committee will look to each Orient to develop a Civic Engagement team with a designated chair. These Orient Civic Engagement teams will provide information regarding social action and public policy issues specific to their Orient. Through the collaboration of the Orient Civic Engagement teams with the core team members, the Social Justice and Civic Action Committee will monitor state and national issues that impact the various communities of the Northern Jurisdiction.

WHY THE COMMITTEE IS IMPORTANT?

The Social Justice and Civic Action Committee will enhance the voice of the United Supreme Council and increase the scope of actions taken collectively by our Fraters. The committee will craft centralized messaging to the membership as well as offer different calls to action that fraters and loyal ladies can implement. Additionally, we will leverage the Orient local relationships to help amplify the impact that the United Supreme Council can have through our members.

The desire to create Social Justice runs deep in our history and we are going to actualize that desire by becoming better communicators and generating more focus on the subjects and

VOTER REGISTRATION

When most people think about voting, they picture ballots cast every four years, for a national Democratic or Republican candidate. We are less interested in local elections which are just as important as national elections, because they decide so many things that will affect us in our daily lives. There are dozens of positions and propositions to vote on at a local level. Perhaps, the lack of interest stems from the difficulty in learning about the candidates or positions, due to there being less media attention than surrounds a presidential election. Nevertheless, these elections are critical to our democracy.

Many voters are particularly likely to vote in presidential years, but not turn out for midterm elections. Turnout is often lower in midterm and off-cycle election years, which can lead to small, non-representative groups of Americans making outsized decisions about issues like education, housing, criminal justice, policing, and minimum wages. Decisions are being made about our future and often without us. We have seen far too often that elections can really be swayed by small margins, in some cases just a few votes. If our community does not participate, these big decisions will more likely fall into the hands of a subset of voters who do not look like us, do not share our values, and do not have our best interest in mind when making decisions. Making outcomes less representative of the population overall and, specifically for us.

While Black turnout is roughly on par with the average

communities around the major issues. This should help to increase turnout in our community during all election cycles and thus increase our impact regarding the critical issues impacting us.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP THE VOTING PROCESS

Civic engagement looks different for everyone, but one thing remains true: every voice and every vote matters! When people come together through activism and electoral politics, you can help change the trajectory of our democracy. Fraters, November 8, 2022 is fast approaching. These upcoming midterm elections have been a topic of discussion since December 2020. Soon, conversations about the presidential elections in 2024 will begin to surface. Let's not forget about the 2023 election cycle in many of our communities.

As such, we are asking each frater to **PAC** for the upcoming elections. Yes, PAC! **P**articipate, **A**dvocate and **C**ollaborate.

◆ **PARTICIPATE:**

Quite simply, vote. If you are a new voter, register as soon as possible. If you have recently moved, make sure that you have updated your registration information. Work to register others who are new voters or have not participated in the voting process recently. Actively participate in non-partisan efforts - e.g. work at a polling place or drive voters to the polls.

◆ **ADVOCATE:**

Embrace and champion issues that are important to you individually and our respective communities collectively. Educate yourselves and others on the issues at the local, state and federal levels; also on candidates' positions. Once we have educated ourselves, we must spread the word beyond the use of social media.

◆ **COLLABORATE:**

Look to work with other organizations who are working to increase voter participation.

Please know that the United Supreme Council is ready to PAC during this, and every, election cycle. We hope that you will PAC as well. Participate, Advocate, and Collaborate. The United Supreme Council needs you, but more importantly, our communities need you!

*- Grand Inspector General
John Hill, 33^o*



2022 CLASS REFLECTIONS

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Robert Meekins, 33^o

Imagine losing your best friend, mentor, and Lodge brother that you have traveled the highways and byways with for decades, and then to become appointed to the position that he coveted so dearly. My feeling of adulation is met with gratefulness and the expectation of being the successor of greatness. There can never be a serious expectation of replacing Sovereign Grand Inspector General Samuel J.D. Shook, Jr. as Dean of Scottish Rite Instruction for the United Supreme Council, AASR, PHA, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc. You must rise to the occasion and be the man of integrity that he believed you to be and lead and act as such.



Maintaining the integrity of the process and the work that "JD" set forth was very unnerving. I was clear that I was now under the scope and radar of Scottish Rite Masons all over the globe. I was reminded that I am now steering the ship that he carefully assisted in the modern-day crafting of. "No pressure" is what a peer told me, but I felt the weight of the world tap dance in my head. Our visionary and leader, Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore allowed me to incorporate some new ideas into the 2022 class, thus there were some immediate modifications that took place.

Modern technology worked and enhanced our process and was the forced change that made us all look at this work differently. As we were all forced to adapt to a post-Covid world perspective, we had no choice, but to conform and appreciate it. Covid-19 brought us into the 21st Century expeditiously, and my instructional team adjusted and performed admirably!

Meeting with the Class of 2022 via Zoom a few months prior to the arrival at our annual United Supreme Council Session gave the team and me a chance to get to know them and likewise, it provided them a chance to know us as their guides through this process. It additionally allowed us a chance to begin the process instructions. With the additional structural enhancements of Zoom and other modifications, we are better positioned, and the class members can enjoy their families and this amazing Scottish Rite experience to the thirty-third and last degree to a greater extent.

These enhancements for this process are a work in progress! We shall continue to enrich the structure as we continually strive for excellence through the elevation process.

Most Puissant Sovereign Grand

The year was 1912. The era was a period in which multiple Supreme Councils consisting of Prince Hall Masons from across the country existed. A time of egotism, pride and vanity in which combative distinctions were resolved through consolidation, it was a year in which many withdrew from bogus Scottish Rite factions and took the Oath of Fealty to either the Northern Jurisdiction or the Southern Jurisdiction, the only two legitimate United Supreme Councils among African American men in the United States of America. It was during this period that Sovereign Grand Inspector General James F. Rickards, 330, served as Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Prince Hall Affiliated, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc.

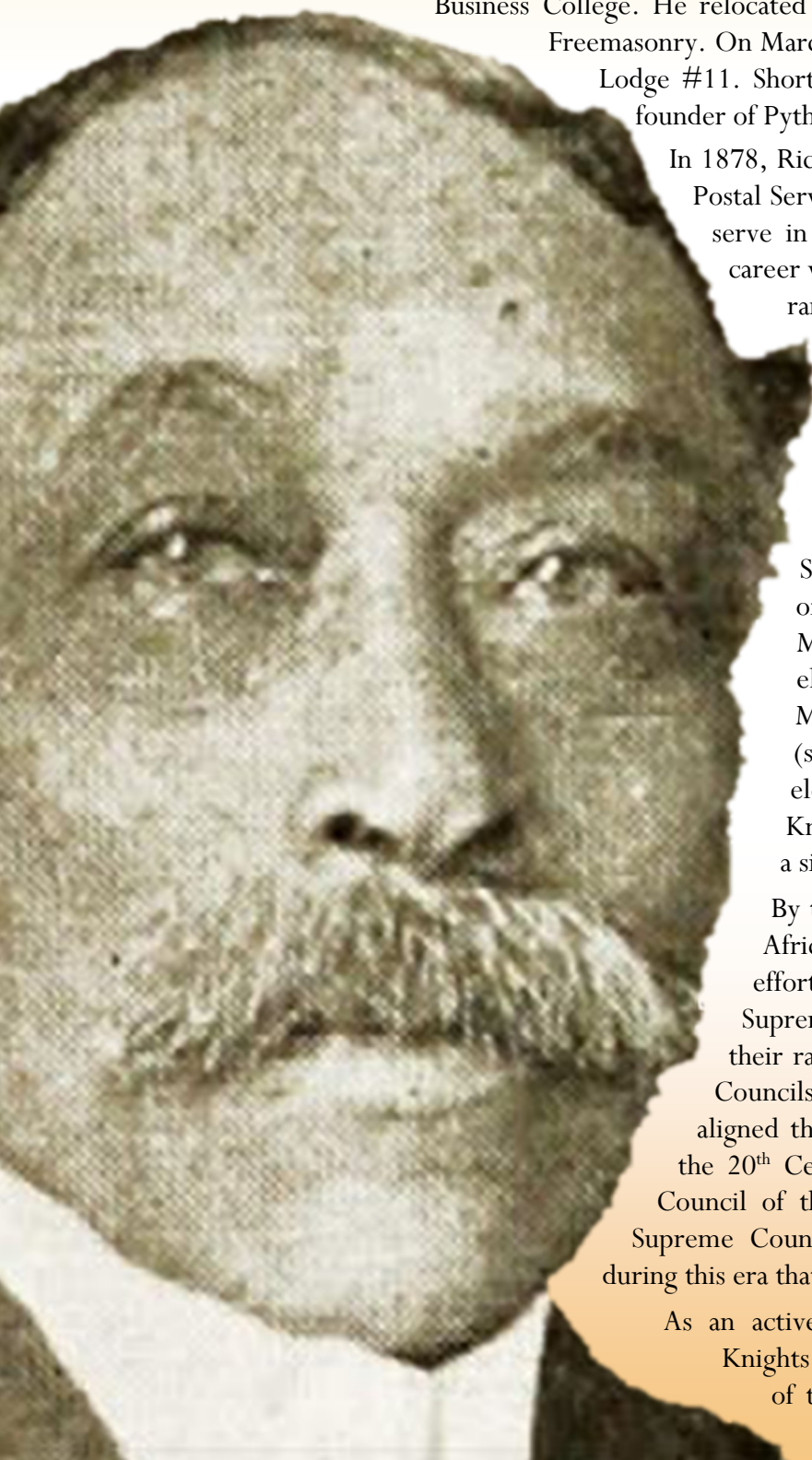
Illustrious Rickards was born and raised in Dover, Delaware on January 17, 1848. Educated in a school established by the Society of Quakers, he relocated to Detroit, Michigan when he came of age and attend Bryant & Stratton's Business College. He relocated to Cleveland, Ohio where he entered the gates of Freemasonry. On March 8, 1869, he was made a Master Mason in Excelsior Lodge #11. Shortly thereafter, he returned to Detroit and became a founder of Pythagoras Lodge #14 of the Michigan Jurisdiction.

In 1878, Rickards entered under the employ of the United States Postal Service. He was employed as a Letter Carrier and would serve in multiple capacities for the Postal Service over his career which spanned nearly forty years. His rise through the ranks of the Postal Service was done in conjunction with his rise through the community and Masonic ranks which indicates that his destiny in leadership and service was divinely crafted.

Rickards held membership in St. Matthew's Protestant Episcopal Church. A strong purveyor of faith, he served as its very first Superintendent of Sunday School. In 1886, he was elected Vice President of Branch #1 of the United States Letter Carriers Mutual Benefit Association in Detroit. In 1887, he was elected Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Michigan Grand Commandery of Knights Templar (served for 11 years). Shortly thereafter, he was elected President of the International Conference of Knights Templar. His Scottish Rite elevations followed a similar pattern.

By the end of the 19th Century, the Scottish Rite among African American men was in a state of flux due to the efforts of John G. Jones and Milton Fields. Two additional Supreme Councils were created and many were lured into their ranks. As clarity on the nature of these new Supreme Councils was eventually realized, many in those factions re-aligned themselves with legitimate bodes and, by the turn of the 20th Century, shifted fealty to either the United Supreme Council of the Northern Jurisdiction (USC NJ) or the United Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction (USC SJ). It was during this era that Rickards made his entrance into the Scottish Rite.

As an active member within the International Conference of Knights Templar, Rickards, undoubtedly, was keenly aware of the challenges within the Scottish Rite. Many of his



Commander James Francis Rickards

York Rite comrades like Richard E. Moore were also prominent members in one of the two Supreme Councils. Moore was a member of Fields' faction while others held membership in the Jones' faction. As such, on December 25, 1903, eight Masonic Brothers were assembled by J. Francis Rickards to organize the start of Scottish Rite Masonry in Michigan. They gathered support from thirty Knights Templar and applied collectively for Scottish Rite Degrees to the USC NJ. Their prayer, which was presented by way of petition at the Annual Session of the USC NJ in Philadelphia on May 9, 1904, was granted and Wolverine Consistory of Detroit was born with Illustrious Rickards, who had subsequently been elevated to Grand Inspector General, as Illustrious Commander-In-Chief.

Illustrious Rickards (right) experienced a swift elevation in the USC NJ. Within a ten year period, he rose from Illustrious Commander-In-Chief of Wolverine Consistory to the Most Illustrious Commander-In-Chief of the United Supreme Council. His organization of Wolverine Consistory was noticed by Sovereign Grand Commander Joshua David Kelley (left) whose mission became to gather Consistories under Jones and Fields to shift fealty to the USC NJ. In this effort, Illustrious Rickards was appointed Deputy for the Orient of Michigan and became one of SGC Kelly's most valuable swords. In 1906, Illustrious Rickards organized Bezaleel Consistory #15 in Ohio and laid the groundwork for the transference of the Dominion of Canada from the Southern Jurisdiction to the Northern Jurisdiction in 1908. These efforts and other good works found him elected as Illustrious Grand Minister of State at the 9th Triennial of the USC NJ.



This elevation can also serve as a testimonial to the things that faith had in store for him. Illustrious Rickards' ability to organize and manage appear to have generated a great deal of confidence in his abilities. These skills, of course, were likely honed during his

leadership and servitude opportunities within his local Lodge and in the York Rite. Yet, at the passing of Sovereign Grand Commander Kelly in 1910, he was elevated to second in command after Illustrious Robert H. Hucless (left), Acting Sovereign Grand Commander. Shortly after the 10th Triennial Session in 1911, Sovereign Grand Commander Hucless succumbed to illness and his spirit returned from whence it came. Thus, Illustrious Rickards was elevated to the Office of Sovereign Grand Commander and would serve for the next ten years.



During his tenure as Sovereign Grand Commander, Illustrious Rickards accomplished a number of high profile tasks. He continued the mission of his predecessors by bringing new Orients under the umbrella of the Northern Jurisdiction. With the assistance of Illustrious Richard E. Moore who took the Oath of Fealty in August 1912, the Orient of Illinois was officially organized on May 8, 1913. Illustrious Rickards also worked with the permission of Sovereign Commander Robert L. Pendleton of the Southern Jurisdiction to onboard the Order of the Golden Circle to the Northern Jurisdiction. These and other additions extended the Northern Jurisdiction and set the stage for prosperity that would carry over into the administration that followed.

In October of 1921, Illustrious Rickards received a call from our Heavenly Father ordering his spirit to return home. He was preceded in death by his wife and survived by his daughter. A faithful servant, he answered the call. His successor in office was none other than Sovereign Grand Inspector General Sumner A. Furniss, 33^o, Sovereign Grand Commander. In honor of Illustrious Rickards, Illustrious Furniss dedicated the first edition of the Bulletin to him.

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ORIENT OF ALASKA

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Clifford Hastings, 33^o



The Orient of Alaska has continued to do the work necessary to move forward for 2022, and has successfully flourished despite all the alarms and ills that have befallen this nation. Deputy Clifford Hastings has made it a point of emphasis to work with the Consistories to find new ways to meet, teach and provide needed growth within Alaska. Thus far this Orient has not suffered any ill effects from COVID, and we pray this trend continues throughout the Orient and this great nation.



We believe, in earnest, that the Lord will shine his Blessings on each and every member of the United Supreme Council as we all continue to be diligent and ensure that proper precautions are taken to keep the membership and our families safe. The ability to still be out

in the public eye and supporting needed events has remained high on the priority list of the members. The Arctic Ques of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity has continued to conduct their friendship walk in Anchorage and the public is invited to participate to fellowship and support this endeavor. This event focuses merely on bringing together African American entities and the community at large to enjoy one another and develop stronger community ties. Deputy Hastings and members of Northern Lights Consistory No. 72 have made it a point to attend these events, and some have attended via Zoom. These events are held at a local Middle School and are well attended by the Anchorage community.

The members of Top of the World Consistory No. 102 said as sad “see you later” to 1LT Allen Agee as he unexpectedly deployed to Poland while serving this great nation of ours in the United States Army. 1st Lieutenant Agee pledged to still attend meeting via Zoom whenever his duties made it possible and to support CIC Parker to the best of his ability. Unfortunately, the military has a habit of moving our members around, but they are still able to support events and such to enable the work of the Orient to continue. Due to the current state of the Alaska COVID stance the members were able to attend the Grand Session of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge for the 53rd Annual Session in person. The session was attended by all who could be in a public and still remain safe.



2nd Lieutenant SP William Brennan of Top of the World Consistory was honored by being elected as Junior Grand Warden for the ensuing year. There is much expected from him as his robust leadership background is expected to bring the Jurisdiction to new heights as he leverages his ample abilities. One bit of trivia about him is that he served as Mayor of Delta Junction and remains a very active individual in the community. He recently completed 16 hours of community service supporting the Monthly Food Box Distribution for senior citizens and low-income families in the city.



Through his efforts, there were 8 pallets and 16 tons of food distributed. Luckily for him it hasn't all been work for him as he was blessed to be able to see his daughter wed in a beautiful ceremony in Delta Junction, AK attended by The Honorable MWGM/GIG (SJ) Abdullah Mustapha-Thomas.



The Anchorage community is a very tightknit society that takes pride in ensuring all are welcome to participate and share community perspectives. There was a gentleman's event hosted by the Graduate Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi and a select clientele was in attendance at the



Petroleum Club to partake. There were members of Top of the World and Northern Lights Consistories, Omega Psi Phi, and prominent businessmen of varied professions.

The evening was enhanced by a presentation from the host fraternity, delectable premium cigars, cognac, a magnificent buffet, and plated dinner. There was spirited enlightened conversation while attendees shared business cards, advice and became acquainted with one another.

One of the items of note was the support members of the Orient provided to a local aspiring politician. GIG Ed Wesley is an influential member of the Democratic Party in Alaska and is the Black Caucus chair. He organized a fund raiser for Mary Peltola at a local American Legion Post 34. This event was attended by many in the community and many vowed to support her. GIG Wesley was not laboring in vain as his efforts to push African Americans to register to vote and to support this candidate paid off. As of this writing Mary won the special election for the U.S. House of Representatives and will replace the incumbent Don Young who recently passed. Further, she is the first Alaska Native to serve in the House and the first woman to hold this seat from Alaska. It was an amazing feather in the

cap for the Orient for one of our members to lead the Black Caucus and to successfully garner support from the African American community in an important election such as this.



Our own GIG Anthony April serves as a hardworking and very effective leader as Captain April in the Alaska State Troopers. He also serves as the

Region VI Vice President for the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE). This organization oversees Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming and is a powerful group of black law enforcement professionals. He is well known throughout Alaska as he moves about serving in various capacities and lending stewardship in any capacity needed from the various hats he wears. There is a good chance some of you may have seen him in a professional capacity at a speaking engagement. He was honored to be asked to speak to the Cadets at West

Point Military Academy to help shape future leaders who will be called upon to defend this country. This was a crowning achievement of sorts because his daughter is a West Point graduate. This is a Frater who stays on the go professionally as he was part of the NOBLE effort to support the confirmation of U.S. Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clark and ATF Director Steve Dettelbach Senate confirmation. We are very proud of his work and we hope you are as well.



ORIENT OF CONNECTICUT

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Edward E. Cherry, 33^o



The Covid-19 Pandemic continues to keep the Fraters and Loyal Ladies in the Orient of Connecticut on continued alert in our meetings and with our interrelationships with families and friends; but, the work must go on. In our Orient we are doing that work as best we can. During the Spring and Summer we have dedicated volunteers continued to work with Little League baseball and football teams by providing financial support as well as personal and managerial leadership on the field of play. In all cases the work is being done by fully following the COVID-19 guidelines as established by state and local protocols, including, as heretofore stated, “common sense”.

This Edition’s submission deadline falls just before our Annual Silver Eagle Awards Dinner where we, as the Orient of Connecticut, are in our tenth year of paying public honor to those non Masonic affiliated members of our communities have shown outstanding services to their communities all over the State of Connecticut. We are more than pleased to have been able to continue to nominate another outstanding high school scholar, athlete and volunteer for the United Supreme Council’s Educational Grant, Aisha Elliott a four year National Honor Society graduate of Holy Cross High School of Waterbury. I believe that her Essay for the

scholarship is one of the classics, which clearly demonstrates the depth of this outstanding young lady.

The Orient of Connecticut continues to support the Rite as well as the communities where Consistories are located. Hartford Consistory #80 is in the forefront when it comes to mentoring our youth in education. New Haven Consistory continues mentoring youth in sports and community activities.



Comradery in Connecticut remains at a high level as exhibited by the bonds of brotherhood at the Grand Lodge and Scottish Rite levels. Most Worshipful Brother Arnold L. Holmes (PHA) and Most Worshipful Brother Rev. Bruce R. Bellmore are the conservators of Freemasonry in the jurisdiction (above). I, SGIG Edward Cherry (USC NJ PHA) and SGIG Kevin J. Hecht (NMJ) maintain the banners of the Scottish Rite for our respective Orients. In Connecticut, harmony prevails.

The Orient was most saddened by the loss of two stalwarts in Prince Hall Masonry in Connecticut in the person of

Ill. Brother and Past Grand Master, Enoch A. Parker and Ill. Rev. Thomas Mallory. Both served their Jurisdiction and Orient with great dignity and shall be sorely missed by all who knew them.



Ill. Rodney T. Cohen, EdD, 33°, a member of New Haven Consistory #7 has recently been named as the inaugural Historically Black College and University Partnership Manager at the University of Utah. He will partner with the university’s academic units in the planning; program and design; and maintenance of exchange; intern rotational teaching research; and other partnerships with HBCU’s in efforts to recruit, retain and promote diverse talents at the University of Utah and across the university’s local community. His duties include working with the University of Utah’s Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion leadership and Office of the President to advance the national presence of the university by identifying and establish partnerships and programs with university organizations and HBCU’s aligned with the university’s mission and vision. He will also frequently consult with already a HBCU partnerships at the university regarding their partnership status and changes, as well as coordinate with units to ensure the vitality success of programs.



The Orient of Connecticut was well represented at the 47th Triennial Session held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in May of 2022. Ill. Cherry and the new Grand Inspectors General from Connecticut were in attendance at the Street Renaming Ceremony at the Holy See. They also attended the United Supreme Council’s Annual Banquet representing the SGIG Samuel J.D.

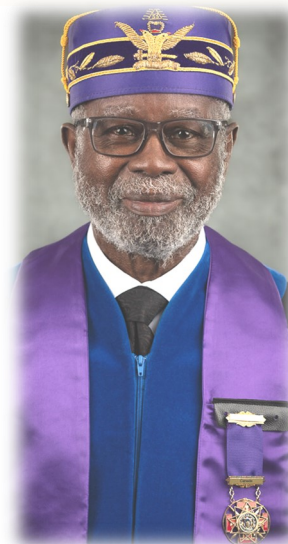
ORIENT OF EASTERN CANADA

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Dr. Frederick Ofosu, 33°



Tuesday July 26, 2022, was an incredibly good day for SGIG Charles Arthur Downes' Family and the Prince Hall Family in Ontario. The City of Toronto named a new street in Downtown Toronto "Downes Street" in honor of the Downes family. SGIG Downes' forebearers and descendants have lived continuously in Toronto since 1888. Downes Street runs east for five city blocks from Yonge to Jarvis and is in an expensive part of Toronto just two blocks north of Lake Ontario.

The street naming ceremony was chaired by City Councilor Joe Mihevic, Councilor for the Ward. Present also were several Toronto City Hall employees; the Downes family and friends; Ontario Black History Society; MWPHGL, Province of Ontario and Jurisdiction; MWPHGC. Province of Ontario and Jurisdiction; Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, PHA, Northern Jurisdiction; Order of the Golden Circle and the Grand Registry of Canada in Ontario. The City Councilor welcomed the guests to the street naming ceremony. He was followed by several dignitaries including Dr. Sheldon Taylor, Professor Emeritus of History, University of Toronto and finally. The final speaker was SGIG Downes.



This laudable recognition is the third of three high recognitions bestowed on three Illustrious Fraters of our Orient in the past 20 years or so in their cities or birth or residence specifically, two deceased and distinguished members of the Prince Hall Family of Ontario. The second was SGIG Raymond G. Lewis, a 1936 Olympic Sprinter for whom the USC GIG Class of 2005 is named. A Primary School in Hamilton, Ontario was named in honor of this former Deputy for Eastern Canada a few years before his demise. He became a regular guest of honor at the Raymond G. Lewis Primary School during Black History Month. The third high honors from his adopted hometown of Hamilton is the late GIG Lincoln M. Alexander for whom several schools in Ontario and a Provincial Highway in Hamilton are named. He was a Member of Parliament for the Hamilton West Constituency and a Federal Cabinet Minister for a decade. On retiring, he was appointed Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario and, after his term expired, was appointed Chancellor of the University of Guelph, in Guelph, Ontario.

The Orient of Eastern Canada proudly acknowledges the accomplishments of these three stalwarts and thank them for their laudable achievements as Scottish Rite Masons and citizens. May their achievements always inspire us in our individual Scottish Rite journeys.

Connecticut Continued

Shook Jr. Class of 2022 (below-left). The Loyal Ladies of the Orient of Connecticut were also well represented (right).

Upon returning to New Haven, the Orient paid its just respects to Past Grand Master and Past Deputy Leroy Ernest Fitch (below-right). A wreath was laid in his honor and memory for his labors on behalf of the Grand Lodge and the Scottish Rite by Most Worshipful Brother Holmes and Ill. Cherry.



ORIENT OF DELAWARE

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



It has been an exceptional year for the Orient of Delaware. Preparation and attendance at the United Supreme Council session in Philadelphia culminated the early year's activities. We celebrated the coronation of four exceptional Grand Inspector Generals from several valleys. The attendance at the United Supreme Council Session was gratifying as the Orient received two new Sovereign Grand Inspector Generals. The recognition was exceptional as it was a reward for the hard work of the Fraters and Loyal Ladies of the Orient. As the Orient moved forward for the remainder of the year, leadership and participation have been very evident across the Valleys.



Corinthian Consistory #5 will be awarding the Corinthian Consistory Scholarship to S'nye Dillard from Bear, Delaware. She will be attending Delaware State University.

Courtney P. Houston, Jr. Consistory #119 is working to be a part of the community of Dover, Delaware and participating in the Historically Black

Colleges and Universities (HBCU) initiative set up by 1st Lt. Commander, GIG Bernard Pratt and the members of the concordant bodies of the jurisdiction of Delaware with the Administration of Delaware State University (DSU). \$2,500 was donated at an event held at the University on Monday, July 18, 2022. We asked that the funds donated be allotted for students there, such as Andrew Burton, the son of SGIG Johnnie A. Burton, Jr. As we continue to highlight our works within the Valley of Dover, C.P. Houston Consistory is looking to recruit many members from Lodges, reclaim non-financial members, and retain the current members in our Consistory, to increase the footprint of the United Supreme Council. Thanks to Ill. Commander in Chief Mobley for submitting the details of these activities.



In 1975 Master Mason Robert Moffett was elevated by Keystone Consistory #85, Okinawa Japan but never received his Patent as he was reassigned to Dover Air Force Base. GIG Reginald Sheridan, Commander in Chief at SP Moffett's elevation, found the Patent. It was delivered to his wife by GIG Wilbur Justice and GIG Edward Swiggett Sr. this year.

The Delaware State Grand Assembly has been exceptional in its support to the community through its various charity activities by supporting teachers, families, children, and the community. Members have strived to leave a lasting mark on those encountered. Some extremely deserving teachers received gift bags of much needed supplies to start the school year. Teaching within the pandemic is very stressful and to add to that, teachers often have to spend their own funds to support the needs of their classrooms. The Loyal Ladies made things a little easier and brighter by supplying classroom supplies, sanitizing wipes, Lysol spray, masks, and personal items for the teachers. No stone was left unturned to provide the educators with the items needed to assist with a successful year.

On January 30th, Milton Assembly #81 held its first virtual initiation via Zoom. This was the first time that a virtual initiation had taken place since approval by the USC. It was greatly attended by members from Delaware Assembly #43, Dover Assembly #96, Milton Assembly and the Deputy of the Orient. Much preparation took place for this initiation as LLR Patricia Brummell wanted to make sure that the initiates received a complete picture of the ceremony. Delaware welcomes the newest Loyal Ladies to the Orient of Delaware, LL Gwen Price, LL Janie Price, LL E. Denise Coates and LL Irene Petersen. Congratulations to each.

Dover Assembly #96 under the leadership of Loyal Lady Ruler Carla Outen had an enhanced year of charitable activities. In March the Assembly supported Kent County Delaware Code Purple Seven large bags of Women and Men's clothing, and 197 small bags filled with hygiene products which included, shower gel, soap, hair shampoo, hair conditioner, toothpaste, washcloth, and body lotion In April



ORIENT OF EUROPE

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Enrique John, 33°



Greetings from the Orient of Europe. I'm humbled that we are blessed to enter into yet another year and strive to put the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic behind us and address our future. Every member of this Orient has worked hard over the past year and we were able to conduct virtual and hybrid meetings throughout the fraternal year, which was a major achievement and something to celebrate.

Our leadership team, with member support, has strived to ensure we have the right programs, staff, and resources to build and move the Orient to the next level of success. Through it all, we remain confident that the future will bring brighter days and continue to work diligently to build this Orient through strong bonds of brotherhood and leadership.



GIG REISS J BYRD—As a Sublime Prince, the United Supreme Council Session was the event of all events. Before the session and receiving the 33°, I talked to my mentor, SGIG James Lavender who gave me little nuggets about the sessions. GIG Robert Janey also gave bits of gold. I was hooked. During the years of learning the ritual, I felt myself growing into a better person. The degrees taught me

much about myself. However, I wanted more and asked SGIG Lavender more about the sessions. The first thing he did say is that you can go as a Sublime Prince but can't go to certain meetings. I understood that. But just hearing about his time there and about the leaders in the United Supreme Council, the speakers, workshops, and symposiums, I felt like I'd be a kid in a candy store. But the pandemic quickly took over. COVID-19 held back two classes due to the mass outbreak. The two states for those sessions were Michigan and Ohio. The Charles W. Hales Class of 2021, is my class. I am happy and love and respect all my classmates. Honestly, I am also glad about this class because I would have been a Michigan Wolverine fan in Ohio... "Go Blue." Overall, the whole experience was outstanding, and memorable. The virtual session will remain in my heart forever. The 2022 Session was at hand and it was my first one. My mentors, SGIG Lavender and GIG Howard Martin, could not make it but GIG Robert Janey and SGIG James Lister showed me around. I was in awe. Seeing our Sovereign Grand Commander Melvin J. Bazemore and his staff was remarkable. I saw my classmates for the first time who are giants in their fields. We talked to each other like equals and brothers. The symposiums were impressive. GIG Damien Jack of the Southern Jurisdiction is Masonically blessed and had the whole room's attention. The street renaming, food, and vendors, overall, were a win for this first—timer. Personally, I cannot wait to see the brothers next year and the fresh faces. See you in Colorado 2023.



GIG FLUKER—The 32° and 33° are a part of the Scottish Rite—Appendant Bodies. The Scottish Rite, Shrine and York Rite confer symbolic degrees. While they are meant to enrich a Mason's experience further and give more opportunities to serve and socialize with our brothers, they do not confer a higher rank or power to a Mason. All Freemasons are taught that no degree is more elevated than the 3°. The first lesson introduced to every Master Mason is

that we are all equal—we all meet upon the level and part on the square. The 32° in the Scottish Rite is the highest of the regular degrees in that order but the degrees are not even necessarily conferred in sequential order. Each degree has a ritual that goes along with it. Depending on your jurisdiction, you will experience different practices entirely. However, you can participate in any Scottish Rite valley events if you are a general member of the Scottish Rite. The 33°, however, is an extraordinary, honorary degree given to members of the Scottish Rite who have been longstanding members of the Order and performed outstanding service to the Scottish Rite. Simply put, it is the Scottish Rite's "Honor Society". Having this honorary and the last degree bestowed upon me was a dream come true. Sharing a room with men of extraordinary achievements in the Masonic Order will always be remembered as one of the crown jewels of my life. The daily grind of learning what it is to be a 33° Mason in training sessions pushed the message that we are expected to be teachers of the Masonic Order. The degree work was the best I personally experienced in my 26 years in Freemasonry. The highlight was my class being named after one of the historic figureheads of the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions, Samuel J.D. Shook! What time is it? It's "Shook Time!"

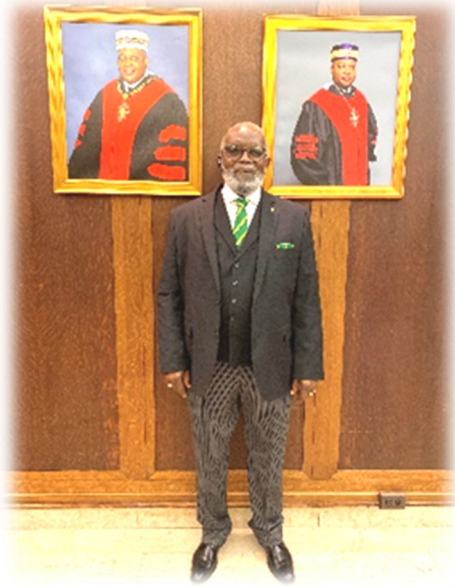


GIG EUGENE BROWN—Let me start by saying it was an honor and a pleasure to be nominated to receive the last and final degree of Scottish Rite Masonry. When I first got the news, it seemed unreal but, as time passed, that uneasy feeling turned into pure joy and gratitude for being recognized for my work. I shared the news with my family and they were just as excited for me as I was for myself.

They know how much Masonry means to me and they have always supported me when it took me away from home. This experience gave me the opportunity to meet some extraordinary brothers of our Masonic order. The training sessions leading up to our departure to Philadelphia provided valuable information and introduced me to three brothers who would later become not only my classmates but brothers. Over time, we formed a bond that I feel will last a lifetime and we had not even met our entire class yet. We then began our online training session from the United Supreme Council Education committee that provided a plethora of information and an opportunity to meet all our classmates. From there the journey began for us to becoming one unit and not ninety-three individuals. The Education Committee took their time with us, and I saw the pride and dedication that those gentlemen had for Scottish Rite Masonry. The agenda was well planned and the classes that were given to us let me know that we were entering another level of Masonry that I have never experienced thus far. I understand that this may be the last degree of Masonry, but it was the beginning stages of my Masonic career because the works starts now. I pride myself on being a hard-working brother and not for titles but for the love of the craft and this experience showed me that I wasn't alone in my feelings. Receiving this degree and having the opportunity to experience Masonry at this level, recharged my batteries and reminded me of the reason I joined this organization, being a part of something much bigger than yourself. Lastly, the Class of 2022 was given the special privileged of being named after one of the most well respected and beloved brothers in all Scottish Rite Masonry (Northern & Southern) Samuel "JD" Shook. I think I can speak for all my classmates when I say that "This was the icing on the cake". That took this experience to the highest of heights because it motivated us to represent this "Giant in Masonry" and keeping the memory of his name alive and in good standing for a lifetime. Closing out this essay I want to quote our Illustrious Brother JD, "What time is it?" "SHOOK TIME!"

ORIENT OF IOWA

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Osumana V. Cassell, 33^o



There were a few gifts exchanged between the two to complete this historic visit.

On February 2, 2022, SGIG Cassell, 33^o, Deputy for the Orient of Iowa was Special Guest at the Des Moines Consistory Annual Meeting and Festive Board of Toasts. He was welcomed and received in full form, the first time a representative of the United Supreme Council Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc. has been hosted by the Des Moines Valley. He shared with those in attendance a special education program on Prince Hall Scottish Rite.

During Masonic Week 2022, SGIG Osumana V. Cassell, 33^o, Deputy for the Orient of Iowa visited ‘The House of Temple’ in Washington, DC. While on his visit, he toured the facility and met with Sovereign Grand Commander, Illustrious James D. Cole, 33^o, Supreme Council - AASR, Southern Jurisdiction, USA for over 30 minutes. During his tour, he saw portraits of Sovereign Grand Commander, Illustrious Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, 33^o, AASR, PHA, NJ, USA, Inc., and Sovereign Grand Commander, Illustrious Corey Hawkins, Sr., 33^o, Esq., The United Supreme Council - AASR, PHA, SJ, USA, Inc. on the mantle in SGC Coles’ office and on the Exhibition Hall wall.



On April 23, 2022, the 2 Consistories in the Orient of Iowa – William F. Powell No. 46, and Alexander G. Clark No. 68, held a joint Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal at Hiram Lodge No. 19 Lodge



Hall in Davenport, Iowa – with both Commanders-In-Chief, Peer Elect Sherman L. Isaac (46), and Grand Inspector General Wendell G. Terry, 33^o, (68) presiding. The Deputy for the Orient of Iowa and members of both Consistories attended the event.

(Pictured below are L-R: GIG Earl J. Harrison, GIG Eddie N. Sauls III, and GIG Sherman L. Isaac)



On May 30, 2022, during The United Supreme Council, AASR, PHA, NJ, USA, Inc. 141 st Annual Session and 47th Triennial three Sublime Princes from the Orient of Iowa – Eddie N. Sauls III, Earl J. Harrison and Sherman L. Isaac were elevated to the grade of Grand Inspectors General of the 33 rd Degree, members of the Samuel J. D. Shook Class of 2022; with GIG Sauls III elected as 1 st Vice President of the Class. CONGRATULATIONS to the Members of the Class of 2022.

ORIENT OF THE FAR EAST

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Charles H. Bush Jr., 33^o



On May 27 – 31, 2022, the United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc. (USC NJ), held its 141st Annual Session in Philadelphia, PA. This occasion marked the first time the Annual Session was held in person since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The week consisted of many activities regarding health, veterans' benefits, education, financial planning, community engagement, entertainment, and USC programs such as Lifetime Membership. The Orient of the Far East members were involved in almost every aspect, including planning, execution, and attendance. Additionally, the Far East Orient Commanders of the Rite (FECOR) met and held elections.

In support of the USC Strategic Plan to Enhance the Scottish Rite Experience, the USC Scottish Rite Education Committee performed a demonstration of the ceremonial opening and closing of the Consistory. The purpose of the training was to promote uniformity in the ritualistic work. SGIG Stuart A. Lee, II, Keystone Consistory #85, served as the Chancellor for the demonstration and is a standing member of the committee.

On Saturday, May 28, 2022, the City of Philadelphia, and the USC held a street renaming ceremony to honor the USC and its impact on the community. Dignitaries in attendance were the

Honorable Donald C. Jones, 33^o, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania; SGIG Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, Sovereign Grand Commander, USC NJ; SGIG Dr. Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq., Sovereign Grand Commander, USC SJ; SGIG Gaetan Mentor, Sovereign Grand Commander, Supreme Council of Haiti; and Senator Sharif Street, Pennsylvania State Senate, District 3 and member of the SGIG J.D. Shook Class of 2022. The Grand Prior, SGIG Rev. Dr. Wilton E. Blake, 33^o, gave an opening prayer for the ceremony. Afterward, the Grand Historian, SGIG Reginald B. Stewart, presented a brief history of the USC and the Scottish Rite Cathedral. Additionally, he discussed the Scottish Rite House and Tower located in the 1500 Block of Fitzwater Street, which provides 231 units of affordable housing for South Philadelphia's elderly population. Following the street renaming to "United Supreme Council Way," the Community Health Fair was held. SGIG Lee assisted the USC photography team at both events, thereby capturing significant moments in the history of the USC.

The USC actively assists our nation's Veterans and their family members through the Veteran's Resource Committee. The committee's purpose is to serve the military community, both past, and present, by providing information and assistance with claims-related issues and benefits. GIG Dandrick Gallegos, Keystone Consistory #85, served on the committee and was the highlight of the symposium. He was the first presenter of the event and provided valuable information on the VA claims and appeals processes to over 250 attendees. Additionally, he fielded questions from the audience on topics ranging from

claims, appeals, acquiring military records, and discharge upgrades.

If you took an opportunity to look at the choir during the Morning Worship Service closely, you might have noticed a familiar face in the person of GIG Andre Johnson of John J. Story Consistory #111, Valley of Mainland Japan. When asked about his participation in the choir, he stated that he enjoys singing in the choir and wants to use his talent to actively support the USC and Scottish Rite Masonry. SGIG James B. Gilbert, III and GIG Robert Deloney served as coordinators for the SGIG Samuel JD Shook Class of 2022.

SGIG Charles H. Bush, Jr., Deputy for the Orient of the Far East, was awarded the Gold Medal of Achievement Award during the Annual Banquet. This medal represents the highest honor bestowed by the USC, AASR of Freemasonry, PHA, NJ, USA, Inc. Illustrious Dr. Dwayne E. Thomas, John J. Story Consistory No. 111, and Illustrious Stuart A. Lee, II were reclassified to the grade of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General (Emeritus). Additionally, SGIG Thomas was appointed Director of the USC Education & Development Department.

While at the Annual Session, the Orient of the Far East elected a new FECOR leadership team. The following members were elected and appointed to their respective positions.

Elected Officers:

- **President:**
GIG Kenneth E. Alston (#111)
- **First Vice President:**
GIG Eldridge Hainsworth (#111)
- **Second Vice President:**
GIG Kenneth Williams (#103)
- **Treasurer:**
GIG Robert Deloney, 33^o (#85)
- **Secretary:**
GIG Kurt Smith, 33^o (#85)

ORIENT OF WISCONSIN

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Marshall Tharpe, 33^o

During this past year, the Orient has been working hard to maintain continuity with its membership. SGIG Minor King, SGIG Marcel Clarke, SGIG Jimmy D. Foster, SGIG Walter Ward are personally contacting members on dues and all-around welfare. SGIG James E. Martin, Valley of Milwaukee and GIG Ovet Hughes, Valley of Madison/Beloit present classes to keep the membership current and knowledgeable in the many areas of the Scottish Rite. The Orient was saddened with the loss of one of its beloved members. SGIG Frank A. Humphrey, was given his Last Rites on August 27, 2022. He will be missed as he has served as a Grand Officer in all the Masonic Houses in Wisconsin as well as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Wisconsin. "Peace Be Unto His Ashes".

On Saturday, June 25th, 2022, Ionic Consistory #70, Valley of Milwaukee,

held its 2nd Annual Father's Appreciation Breakfast. The theme was "The Father Effect" - "Father is the noblest title a man can be given. It is more than a biological role. It signifies a patriarch, a leader, an exemplar, a confidant, a teacher, a hero, a friend". The affair honored nine outstanding fathers in the Milwaukee Community:

- *Frater Todd A. Coleman, 32^o*
- *GIG Shawn A. James, Sr., 33^o*
- *Frater Antonio Mayo, 32^o*
- *GIG Dr. Kenneth Harris, Jr., 33^o*
- *SGIG Minor King, II, 33^o*
- *GIG Amilcar Pete Montijo, 33^o*
- *Mr. Elliott Stokes*
- *Mr. Joshua Johnson*
- *Mr. Theodore Henderson*

The message, "the role and importance of fathers" given by Pastor Benjamin Robinson from Good Samaritan Westside Community Church. Supporters with thousands of



dollars in gifts to be recognized are:

- *American Family Insurance*
- *UW Credit Union*
- *JV-Creations*
- *Northwestern Mutual*
- *Associate Bank*
- *Wisconsin Casket Supply*
- *Pyramax Bank*
- *TMT Charity Foundation*
- *Farmers Insurance (Walt Buchanan Agency)*
- *Paradise Memorial Funeral & Cremation*

Special thanks to the Committee members SGIG Marcel A. Clarke, Chairman and SP Arras V. Martin, Co-Chairman. At the conclusion of the event, all were blessed with the benediction given by 8-year-old Mia Clarke, daughter of SGIG Marcel A. Clarke.



Far East Continued

Appointed Officers:

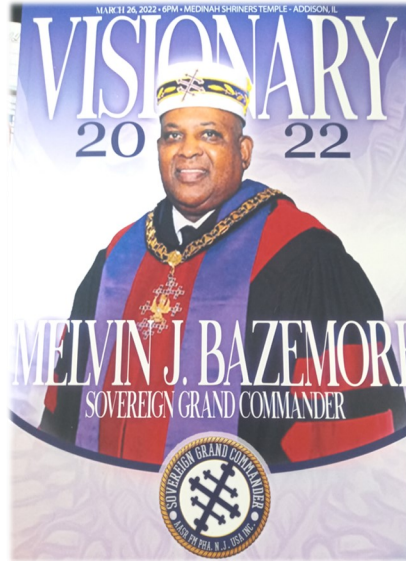
- **Chaplain:** *GIG Rodney Matthews (#114)*
- **Asst Treasurer:** *SGIG James B. Gilbert, III (#114)*
- **Asst Secretary:** *SGIG Bill Lowery (#85)*

As the Orient welcomed the new team, we sent the last team off in Far East fashion. We recognized the outgoing president SGIG Lowery for his outstanding leadership. He served as the FECOR president for 15 years. In addition to several tokens of appreciation, the Orient presented him with a hand-painted portrait of himself (right).



ORIENT OF ILLINOIS

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Melvin Frierson, 33°



The ICOD mourn the loss of two stalwart members of Scottish Rite Masonry namely, SGIG Lafayette Gatling and SGIG Charles B. Taylor. Both were “Active” members of the United Supreme Council (USC). Peace be to their ashes.

Western Consistory #28 and the Commanders-of-the-Rite, Valley of Chicago gave a second to none “testimonial” honoring SGC Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore on March 26, 2022. The occasion was well attended and a good

time was had by all. SGC Bazemore saw fit to recognize SGIG Charles Stewart and award him with the Gold Medal of Achievement at the affair .

At the USC’s 141st Annual Session, three (3) SGIGs from Illinois were “reclassified” to Active Status. They were

Leroy Barnes, DePlessie “Sonny” Drew and James A. Mitchell. Congratulations to these brethren. Hats off to SGIG Daryl Andrews, editor of the Bulletin and the Scottish Rite Reflections, for his leadership, acumen, and writing skills.



Donations given to Wrightwood Baseball of Chicago by SGIG William W. Jackson (WW Jackson Funeral Home)

Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Sumner A. Furniss—Part 2

In the early years there were not many issues or complications, but the administration of the Order of the Golden Circle (OGC) proved to be a thorn in his side. Commander Furniss disagreed with the direction that his predecessor had taken. He felt that he should be an auxiliary to the Consistories overseen by the Deputies. His will, accredited by a letter from Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander Robert L. Pendleton explaining the original intent, prevailed and the OGC was reorganized.

Originally named the *Committee on Permanent Quarters of the Supreme Council* created by Commander Rickards, Commander Furniss renamed it to the *Committee on Permanent Quarters*, continued his predecessor’s work, and chaired the once again renamed *Cathedral Building Committee* which, through diligent efforts in trying times after World War I, raised money; surveyed sites; purchased land; supervised construction to the completion of the Cathedral. During his chairmanship of the committee, he engaged in efforts to sell the idea of a central headquarters for the USC NJ to the rank-and-file members. He implored upon the subordinate Consistories the importance of owning a building. He was well suited to this pursuit having been involved in securing a building and raising funds through involvement with a building fund during his time in the John G. Jones organization and his Knights of Pythias Lodge.

A curious set of events between Commander Furniss and Harry A. Williamson changed the course of Masonic history. Williamson, in assisting the Library Committee, intended to donate his extensive

collection of volumes about Prince Hall Freemasonry as the basis of the Cathedral library’s holdings. He desired to join the planned Consistory in Brooklyn—Long Island Consistory. The backstory is that the application to affiliate was rejected because he was one of the candidates. Correspondence was exchanged with Commander Furniss who reaffirmed the decision as Brother Williamson lived in Manhattan—not in Brooklyn. As a result, Williamson donated it to the New York Public Library. Long Island Consistory #61 was originally to be named *Peter W. Ray Consistory*. This did not happen. Coincidentally, Brother Williamson was related to Illustrious Ray.

The 46th Annual Session in May 1927, was held in the Valley of Indianapolis no doubt to Commander Furniss’ influence. At this session Commander Furniss renewed four scholarships the USC NJ previously bestowed on “worthy colored boys.” Commander Furniss was pleased to preside over the dedication and opening ceremonies of the recently completed Scottish Rite Cathedral in May 1928. It was the culmination of a labor of love, tremendous sacrifice of the members, and rigid dedication of the committee. Commander Furniss would continue to keep up a frantic pace of activity. One wonders how he did it all.

At the 57th Annual Session (19th Triennium) in May 1938 held in the Valley of Philadelphia, Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander Willard W. Allen 33° of the USC SJ was made an honorary member. This was also notable because it was the 10-year reunion of the David Leary Class of 1928. In December 1936,



and SGIG Charles Burns were utilized to provide much needed equipment for our youth. SGIG Andrews serves as a volunteer on the Board of Directors for the not-for-profit organization. The contributions of SGIGs Jackson and Burns in addition to anonymous donations resulted in the purchase of new catchers equipment for the team. A special purchase was made for the one young lady on the team who was selected as an All-Star this year.

Mentorship is alive and well in the

Orient. SGIG Charles Burns provided training on mentorship in the City of Springfield over the summer at a special session. The session was well attended. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed by ICOD with the Illinois Alzheimer's Association at the session. Presented by the efforts of GIG Ray Willis, ICOD is now a sponsor for the organization which aims to promote awareness for Alzheimer's disease.

Under the aegis of the Honorable Melvin Frierson, Deputy for the Orient

of Illinois (PHA), the Alms Club, Youth Programs, Education, and Social Services continue to be the linchpins of his overall initiatives. These efforts and other important activities will be detailed in the upcoming 105th Annual Session of the ICOD on October 13 – 16, 2022. The Session will be held at the Abraham Lincoln-Double Tree Hotel located 701 Adam St., Springfield, Illinois.

he personally presented the charter for Charles E. Gordon Consistory #36 (Pennsylvania). In early 1939, he jumpstarted the reorganization of the Orient of Nebraska. SGIG Nathaniel Hunter, a Past Grand Master, served as Deputy for the Orient and convened a Council of Deliberation for the first time in many years.

In April 1942, Commander Furniss suffered a huge loss with the death of his wife Lillian. They had been married 37 years. The loss took a toll on him, but in due time he bounced back. In a truly superlative fashion, he was honored, as most other Sovereign Grand Commanders have been, with a Class bearing his name—the Sumner A. Furniss Class of 1946. The notable distinction in this case is that he was still alive when it happened. He moved about the country and visited Consistories on a regular basis. He was always well received and celebrated as a dynamic speaker. He left crowds aghast and hanging on his every word. For as much success as he enjoyed professionally he did have an occasional brush with strife in his personal life. In February 1948, while responding to an emergency call and expecting a sick patient, he was instead met by a robber who purposely placed the false call to victimize him. The robber put a gun to his stomach and relieved him of cash and some personal effects.

In May 1948, during the 67th Annual Session held in the Valley of Philadelphia the Sumner A. Furniss Class of 1946 presented an oil painting featuring the likeness of Commander Furniss. The portrait hangs on the wall in the library at the Cathedral. Shocking the assemblage at the 68th Annual Session held in Valley of Chicago in May 1949, Illustrious Grand Minister of State Leland D. French

read a prepared statement of resignation from Commander Furniss as he was not present. It read, in part:

“There is no reasonable hope that I may command the strength . . . to plan or execute the strenuous duties which devolve upon your chief executive officer . . . it is my clear duty to retire to the ranks, and be relieved from the administrative duties and worries . . .”

Commander Furniss was longest-serving Sovereign Grand Commander occupying the office for almost 28 years—October 1921 through May 1949. By vote he was made the first Sovereign Grand Commander Emeritus. The USC NJ enjoyed the second largest expansion of its jurisdiction during Illustrious Furniss' tenure—18 Consistories were chartered, Samuel W. Gordon Consistory #50 through Alexander G. Clark Consistory #68. He remained busy in his retirement. In April 1950, he was appointed to a Speaker's Bureau in support of a citizens group promoting involvement in politics. In January 1951, Commander Furniss was presented with a 25-year pin from his Lodge. That is not to say that he had been a member of the Lodge for 25 years, only that he was then presented the pin. It may have been the first time the Lodge issued pins of this kind. At that time, he had been a member of freemasonry for at least 52 years.

Commander Furniss passed on Sunday, January 18, 1953, just 12 days prior to his 80th birthday. His suffered from complications due to an earlier hip fracture. His services were held at Bethel AME Church of which he was a long-time member. He was interred in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis alongside his wife. They had no children.

ORIENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Daniel C. Brightwell Jr., 33°



"Give the right hand of affection and fellowship to whom it justly belongs, let their color and complexion be what it will; let heir nation be what it may, for they are your brethren and it is your indispensable duty so to do."

- Prince Hall - June 24, 1797

The Orient of Massachusetts is pleased to share an account of a recent visitation to the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction Council of Deliberation. We are equally pleased to report on our continued Mentoring, Scholarship and Community Services programs. On June 23, 2022 The Deputy of the Orient of Massachusetts and members of the Massachusetts Council of Deliberation were honored to attend the Counsel of Deliberation session for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

As Scottish Rite masons we value what we describe as "warm fraternal relations" between the different masonic bodies within and outside our jurisdictions. For centuries there existed

prohibitions against such relations due to lack of mutual recognition based on constitutional grounds and sadly, based on racism. For scores of decades lodges consisting of Caucasian Masons operated in the same state, city or town along side lodges consisting of Black Masons without any fraternal relations, completely disregarding the Masonic concept of Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of Man. The "legitimacy" of Black Masons was the common excuse used to mask racism.

Thanks to William H. Upton of the Grand Lodge of Washington, author of "Negro Masonry" published in 1902, all questions concerning Prince Hall Masonry legitimacy were put to rest. However the proven fact of Prince Hall Masonry's legitimacy did not immediately sway the tide of racism. Indeed, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts acknowledged the legitimacy of Prince Hall Freemasonry in 1947 only to rescind their vote a year later. It would not be until 1995 that the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts would recognize the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. There has always been those that simply did not want to accept Black Masons as equals, however, true Light cannot be hidden nor extinguished. Today there is recognition of Prince Hall Masonry in all but less than 10 states. We share recognition with the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction Scottish Rite.



Upon receiving a gracious invitation from Ill. George F. Hamilton, 33°, Deputy for the Orient of Massachusetts, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, on June 23, 2022 SGIG Brightwell, Jr., 33° visited the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction Scottish Rite Council of Deliberation for the Orient of Massachusetts. Ill. Brightwell invited his Council of Deliberation Officers to accompany him on his visit. The Deputy and his Officers were warmly received. Similarities and differences were observed in ritualistic operation, however the common theme and philosophy were, as expected, similar in every respect to our Council of Deliberation session. For the younger members of our Council, the experience was well received as part of their masonic growth and education.

Our Orient prides itself in giving back to the community. Education is one of the most important gifts a child receives in life. In that spirit, the Orient is pleased to extend another scholarship opportunity to a deserving student in the community. Kennedy Nicole Winslow, a young Springfield, Massachusetts native, is a junior at Columbia University. She is scheduled to receive the 3rd of her four annual scholarship awards while attending undergraduate studies. Kennedy is aspiring to attend law school



ORIENT OF NEBRASKA

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Johnny Cummings, 33°

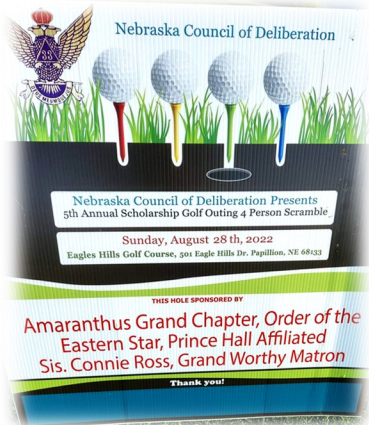


The NCOD hosted its 5th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. Everyone had a good time during and after the event. The revenues generated will be used to support those seeking higher education, and supporting youth activities in the community. Two scholarships will be presented to two outstanding college students this year. Also, Joshua David Kelley Consistory #27 is engaging in its 2nd year partnership with the Open-Door Mission for a “Seats and Feet” Drive, along with the 2nd year partnership with the U.S. Marine Corp Toys for Tots program. These community-based activities are to support the Open-Door Mission in its efforts to provide those items to the homeless, and needy. The goal is to collect as many items as possible to meet or exceed the Mission’s need, and present numerous gifts and presents to deserving children with various communities. Last year, both programs were very successful.

A special committee is being established to develop a means for active participation in civic engagement on social justice. A partnership with the NAACP is being formed to engage in the protection of voting rights and voting education

through the establishment of numerous community and precinct forums.

The Orient participated in a Community Safety Day Appeal. The purpose was to present various safety related educational information and demonstrations to citizens and their family. Naming just a few of the many organizations that participated were the local electric gas company, local natural gas companies, police department, state troopers, Charles Drew Health Center and local Fire Department to discuss the dangers associated with Carbon Monoxide. The event was a huge success. Next year the Consistory will engage with the CHIP (Child Identification Program) to provide families with an opportunity to have their children to provide DNA at no cost to them, for future emergency identification events, if needed.



Massachusetts Continued— after graduation. She is an inspiration and worthy of the scholarship honor.

The Orient continues its Mentoring Program under the direction of Grand Inspector General Roscoe O. Thomas. The committee members are looking forward to the new school year with all students back at school and the vestiges of the pandemic behind us. GIG Thomas and his committee members are looking to repeat the success experienced prior to the pandemic. This year the mentoring program is planning field trips, including having the youth attend our public functions, in hopes that these activities will not only inspire the youth

to achieve their best but also foster an interest in the craft.

The Ladies of the Golden Circle, Prince Hall Assembly No.1 out of Boston, Massachusetts are active with their Seniors Program. This program involves visiting senior women in hospitals and nursing homes. The program is operated under the leadership of Loyal Lady Ruler Grace Royal. The Ladies of The Golden Circle not only visit but also donate toiletries and personal items to senior women. The Ladies of the Golden Circle, Springfield Assembly No. 73 out of Springfield, Massachusetts under the leadership of Loyal Lady Ruler Patricia

Link are working with single mothers in need, providing clothing, toys and back to school supplies for their children. The Ladies of the Golden Circle in the Orient continue to be exemplary in the community and in their craft.

By the grace of God, the challenges of the pandemic are now in the rear view. We are grateful for the near passing of the dark days of COVID-19. The Orient of Massachusetts is eager to finally resume in-person meetings and looks forward to a productive year. “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

- 1Thessalonians 5:16-18

ORIENT OF NEW YORK

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Grady Edge, 33°



The racially motivated, horrific, and senseless murder of 10 people in Buffalo, NY in May of this year, simply put, was an act of terrorism and bigotry. GIG Oswaldo Mestre Jr. of Bison Consistory #29 who is the Chief Service Officer & Director of Citizen Services for Buffalo, is handling citizen engagement concerns and customer services. He has been highly engaged coordinating volunteer and monetary efforts that lead to the relief of 13 families directly affected by this tragedy.

He is a part of the collective effort with the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo and United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, that have established the "Buffalo Together Community Response Fund", which is Co-Chaired by President and CEO of the Buffalo Urban League, GIG Thomas Beauford, Jr. also of Bison Consistory #29. To date \$5.2 million has been committed from nearly 80 local and national foundations, corporations, and more than 1,600 individuals.

This collaborative effort is built upon the collective desire to take action to support Black-led organizations on the frontlines of addressing immediate needs in the community—community rebuilding and systemic issues in marginalized communities. Black residents of East Buffalo partnered with organizations at LISC Western New York to launch a fund to support and stabilize the Black-owned/led businesses

and nonprofits in the neighborhood surrounding the site of the killings—“The Soil Fund”. This fund will provide grants of \$15,000 each to up to 30 businesses and nonprofits on Buffalo’s East Side that focus on improving access to food, housing, transportation, and cultural and historic assets.

King David Consistory #3—In May 2022, Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore selected SGIG Rev. Hermon J. Simpson, the “Teacher Preacher” deliver the sermon at the “Sunday Morning Worship Service” during the 141st Annual Session of the United Supreme Council. His riveting homily was titled “No Cross...No Crown”. He was proud to be asked. 30 new Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret were also elevated in July to extend the Scottish Rite in New York while GIGs Christopher Wright, George W. Pierce and John F. Fields celebrated 50 years of membership.

Bison Consistory #29—Taking all safety precautions, Bison has resumed in-person meetings and study classes. 2 Fraters were elevated to the Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret. Bison joined the initiative of the 7th Masonic District to aid victims of the Buffalo mass killings by contributing to the “Go Fund Me Fund” established to provide meals to the community.

Congratulations to Illustrious Adam Sumlin and Illustrious Charles Allen who were reclassified to the grade of Sovereign Grand Inspector General at the United Supreme Council Annual Session held in Philadelphia, PA. SGIG Stanley Mack delivered his trial sermon in preparation of becoming a minister of the Gospel. The sermon was well attended by members of the Consistory and the Golden Circle. SGIG Sumlin assisted by SGIG Mack put on a seminar for Prostate, Colon, and Lung Cancer at the St. Paul’s AME Zion Church of

Buffalo. The seminar was also given at the Doris B. Jones Community Center in Niagara Falls. Discussions were based on improving screening and navigating once diagnosed with the disease. The seminars attracted large numbers in both communities.

Bison also held its annual affair held honoring Illustrious Kinzer Pointer and Frater Arthur Crenshaw for their work in the craft. GIG Louis Benton continues his focused on increasing knowledge about Scottish Rite Freemasonry. This initiative is paying dividends. GIG Robert Grice became a mentor in the Willie Hutch Program which was founded for helping young adults with the Jackie Robinson Program for a better sports life and continuing education. SGIG Sumlin has continued the work of the consistory benefitting the Grady Edge Reading and STEM Program by expanding its reach into the community. He started a “Blessing in a Backpack Program” that reaches schools throughout the Western New York area. This program hands out a backpack on Fridays during the school year with food and a book to a minimum of 25 students. The backpack is returned on Monday to be refilled for the upcoming Friday with food items for students in need. This also helps to reinforce weekend reading while away from school. \$700 was also donated to STEMS and Gems Program for youth mentoring through Hadji Temple. Bison Consistory continues helping deliver hot meals and produce to residents in the community who are without a supermarket due to the mass killings in Buffalo. SGIG Charles Allen, a devout Baptist Deacon, continues his outreach offering prayers of healing and comfort to the sick and shut-in members of the Masonic family and the community.

Long Island Consistory #61—12 new Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret. SGIG Alonzo Ivery, District



Vice President of the Commanders of the Rite (COR) and Secretary of the Consistory was saluted for his many years of valuable and uninterrupted service. He played a pivotal role that increased membership. As a member of the 2003 SGIG Davis/Russell Class, he was elevated to the 33rd Degree. He served his Consistory in every leadership role. He was re-classified to Sovereign Grand Inspector General Emeritus in 2007. He is a charter member of Louis Fair Lodge #122 of the MWPHGL of New York. As Vice President, his leadership of the COR inspires others and helped to create a deep and lasting bond among its members. He and other members are highly involved in every aspect of Consistory life. The Orient of New York is made better because of his dedication. As one of the co-sponsors of the 15th Annual Harvest Fest and School Backpack Giveaways, the Consistory was involved in every aspect of the Harvest Fest. The giveaways were, hand sanitizers, hand soap and wipes.

Albany Consistory #90—Despite the loss GIG Richard Smalls, a pillar to the Consistory and a key support to Commanders-in-Chiefs, the Consistory remains on a forward moving course.

1st Lieutenant Danny Melton Sr. who oversees the Grady Edge Reading and STEM Program for Albany collaborated with SGIG El Wise Noisette the Program Director, to take the youth Group of Al Tabari Court #28 to a local horse farm where they enjoyed a day of horseback riding and learning how to care for horses. Books were given to the horse farm on behalf of the Grady Edge Reading and STEM Program. Goals for Albany include resuming in-person meetings and reconnecting with the local community, churches and schools.



Pentecost Consistory #98—The members of Pentecost Consistory # 98 and Pentecost Assembly # 86 attended the Men's Day Service on Father's Day at Macedonia Baptist Church in Mount Vernon, New York on an invitation extended by GIG Rev. Darren M. Morton, Senior Pastor, and SP Kewaan Martin. In September, members of Pentecost will sponsor a back-to-school bookbag program for children of the families residing at the Westhelp Family Shelter in Mount Vernon and host their Annual Breakfast honoring Past Commanders-in-Chief William Shaw and Charles Parker. The guest speaker will be GIG Rev. Darren M. Morton. SGIG Leonard LaRue will continue

conducting lectures on the Scottish Rite on the 2nd Monday every month. Sessions are well attended. Reclamation and Retention efforts are also in-place under the leadership of Commander-in-Chief, Delvin Hodges.

Manhattan Assembly #3—Manhattan is still focusing on monetary charity donations. Money was collected among the Loyal Ladies in place of a fundraiser and donated in support of support Breast Cancer.

Bison Assembly #48—The Officers and Members bid farewell to PSGLLR Clara M. Davis. She was among the Loyal Ladies present at the 1st Session of the New York State Grand Assembly in 1975, and in 1979 was crowned the first Grand Assembly Queen. She became the Loyal Lady Ruler in 1977 and SGLLR of the Grand Assembly from 1990 to 1992. Following her tenure, she served the Grand Assembly as Grand Historian and on numerous committees.

Capital District Assembly #60—The Assembly continues to collect and submit aluminum pull tabs to the Ronald McDonald House in Albany. This helps cover the financial obligations for parents in need. Ronald McDonald House provides rooms and services to the parents of seriously and terminally ill children at the Albany Medical Center Hospital. A Father's Day Raffle was held to assist with other financial commitments and obligations.



Pentecost Assembly #82—Pentecost Assembly held a beautiful Garden Party in Yonkers as a fundraiser.



ORIENT OF OHIO

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Carl Williams, 33°



The Orient of Ohio keeps moving along. We continue to exemplify the morals, precepts, and tenets of the Scottish Rite in conjunction with following the plans placed on the trestle board by Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore.

On Saturday, March 5, 2022, Miami Assembly #22, Dayton, held its virtual prayer breakfast. A spirit-filled morning of entertainment was enjoyed by all! A souvenir journal accompanied the event. On Thursday, March 17, 2022, the Orient of Ohio, led by a joint team from Bezaleel Consistory #15 and Miami Consistory #26, performed the Ceremony of Renewal and Remembrance on the Zoom platform. = Grand Prior, SGIG Wilton E. Blake, I, opened in prayer. All Consistories followed in numerical order reading aloud the names of their fraternal dead. GIG Fr. Benjamin E.K. Spearhardy, II, the delivered the message concerning embracing ALL of God and not just a part. We must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, stay the course and endure. The Loyal Lady Secretaries of each Assembly read aloud the names of their fallen members. Assistant Grand Prior, SGIG James H. Willis Sr. offered a prayer for the deceased. Each Commander-in-Chief provided closing remarks filled with praise and appreciation for solemnity of the

ceremony. Grand Master of Ceremonies, SGIG Jerry D. Springer acted in his appointed stead and moved the program along effortlessly. Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief Williams delivered the closing remarks after SGIG Ronald Ogletree and SGIG Darryl R. Smith.

On Saturday, April 23, 2022, Bezaleel Consistory hosted a Testimonial Weekend for SGIG Williams. There had not been a Testimonial Banquet for a Deputy in Ohio in 16 years and this one was worth the wait. The event was attended by Sovereign Grand Commander Bazemore; Grand Minister of State SGIG William R. Stark; and Secretary General of the Holy Empire SGIG Edward M. Brooks, II; multiple Deputies; numerous Active members; and other Masonic luminaries such as the Grand Master of the MWPHGL of Ohio, Jerry R. Ellerson; Grand Worthy Matron Patricia A.P. Taylor; and Grand Worthy Patron Carlwin L. Collins. A Friday night hospitality was hosted for attendees and was enjoyed by many. Saturday afternoon found guests being treated to a vivid life history of the honoree that doubled as a tribute to his late mother Lula Belle Williams performed by GIG Prester Pickett and LL Bertha Pickett (below). After the program, the committee was recognized for their efforts and our Sovereign Grand Commander was presented a "lid" (hat) from the *Boys from the North*.

During the banquet the *Tall Cedars of the Prince Hall Scottish Rite* in the Orient of Ohio were given their flowers while they are still here to smell them. Past Deputies for the Orient, SGIG Chester C. Pryor II and SGIG Sidney D. Broadnax Jr., were presented with plaques of appreciation for their service over the years. Also recognized for their

devoted friendship and support over the years were LL Diane Jofferion; SGIG Ival Angel; and Asst. to the Deputy, SGIG Louis C. Crocheron. The love and appreciation for SGIG Williams was evident by the number of guests in attendance; the line for presentations; and the individuals who sang his praises. Representing for the Williams family was his daughter, Shadae Bumpers. In an entertaining speech she saluted her father in a very moving and honorable fashion. SGIG Reginald B. Stewart served as an exceptional Master of Ceremonies.

On Saturday, May 7, 2022, Sovereign Grand Commander Bazemore was conferred a Doctorate of Humane Letters from Wilberforce University for his long history of charitable giving on behalf of the United Supreme Council. SGIG Williams along with a large contingent from Ohio, were present to support the Sovereign Grand Commander and witness this most deserved honor.

Also, on Saturday, May 7, 2022, a 70th birthday celebration was given in honor of then GIG Dr. C. Keith Melvin. He is well-known in the medical field in Cincinnati for his matter-of-fact delivery concerning the challenges African Americans face in healthcare. The party with a purpose was sponsored by the Black and White Cancer Survivors Foundation, and a portion of the proceeds benefited the organization. A little less than 2 weeks later, on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, Dr. Melvin was the recipient of The Daniel Drake Humanitarian award from the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati. A number of fellow physicians were on hand to support him along with family members.



The stars certainly shined in the Northern Jurisdiction during this triennial session amid a robust schedule of events. On Friday, May 27, Sovereign Grand Commander Bazemore was elected to a second 3-year term which illustrates the faith the Active membership has in his ability to lead us to higher heights the and effectiveness of his strategic plan. All other officers including Ohio's own SGIG



ORIENT OF WASHINGTON & OREGON

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



On August 26th, Illustrious Deputy Gregory D. Wraggs, Sr., Washington/Oregon Council of Deliberation (WOCD), SGLLR Martha Davis and the Order of the Golden Circle (OGC) donated food for 100 families to the Vision Center Food Bank of The Church of the Living God—Bishop Lawrence White, Pastor. Donations were received from Fraters and Loyal Ladies across the Orient.



Deputy Wraggs and visiting dignitaries including SGIG Edward M. Brooks, Secretary-General and Most Worshipful Grand Master Gilbert E. McClary Sr. The OGC Session under the leadership of SGLLR Davis was also well attended.

Reports in both sessions highlighted the high degree of service of both bodies within Washington State, Oregon and surrounding areas. Concluding with the banquet, the weekend was a grand success.

On September 9-10, 2022, the WOCD held its annual session in Tacoma. The session opened in stellar fashion to receive the



Broadnax, Lieutenant Grand Commander, were returned to their stations. Reclassifications also happened on Friday. Congratulations go out to SGIG Dr. Melvin who was one of the lucky few.

On Saturday, May 28 the Class was named the Samuel J.D. Shook Jr. Class of 2022. 12 members of the Class were from Ohio. The honorary renaming of the 1500 block of Fitzwater Street to "United Supreme Council Way" also took place. This idea was proposed by SGIG Stewart. State Senator Sharif Street; Sovereign Grand Commander Hawkins, USC SJ PHA; and Sovereign Grand Commander Gaetan Mentor, Supreme Council, Haiti, attended.

The Orient of Ohio was represented at the highest level through the awarding of the

Gold Medal of Achievement to Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief Williams (2020); Illustrious Grand Prior, SGIG Blake (2020); and SGIG Dr. Steven Reese (2021). This brings the number of recipients from Ohio to 16.

Miami Assembly #22, Order of the Golden Circle hosted a "Clothes that Work" campaign from May 22 through July 9. Gently worn or new men's and women's clothing, shoes, and outer garments were accepted with an emphasis on new socks and undergarments. A clothing barrel was available at the Masonic Temple in Dayton



and donations were delivered on July 9.

Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief Williams escorted his brother, Fr. Clarence Williams C.PP.S (left), to South Bend, Indiana, to receive the Father Joseph Davis Award on behalf of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus on Wednesday, July 27 at Notre Dame. There is also an award given out in his name for the work he has done in the

Caucus for the past 50 years. He is a well-known cleric whose published books include "Racial Sobriety: A Journey From Hurt to Healing" and "Racial Sobriety: Becoming the Change You Want To Be."

The 3rd annual Pennsylvania Commanders of the Rite banquet was held on Saturday, August 27th honoring current Secretary-General of the Holy Empire SGIG Brooks; past Secretary-General, SGIG Lorenzo Cruger; Cathedral Secretary, SGIG Raynard W. Hughes; and Treasurer-General of the Holy Empire SGIG Lee. Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief Williams attended this event.





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UNITED WE STAND!!!

