

# The Fall Bulletin

Official Organ of the United Supreme Council Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry  
Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, U.S.A. Inc.

FALL

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2020

## FINANCIAL STABILITY



*Financial Stability is a state in which the financial system is resistant to economic shocks and is fit to smoothly fulfill its basic functions—the intermediation of financial funds, management of risks and the arrangement of payments.*

### THE BULLETIN

Printed twice each year by The United Supreme Council Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, U.S.A. Inc.

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## United Supreme Council Missions

### Membership

- **Enrichment—Annual Sessions**  
*Improved Session Schedule and Content*
- **Development**  
*Lecture Series and Learning Plans*
- **Growth & Retention**  
*Benefits Seminar and Satisfaction Survey Input*
- **Expertise**  
*Creation of Internal Talent Network*
- **Reclamation Strategy**  
*Reclaim inactive members*
- **Scottish Rite Education**  
*Scottish Rite Education Program*



### Enhancements

- **Website**  
*Re-design the website of the Holy Empire*
- **Online Payment**  
*Leverage technology for financial simplification*
- **Online Report Submission**  
*Streamlined process for electronic submission*
- **Electronic Communications**  
*Increased communications across multiple platforms*
- **Membership Portal**  
*Improved membership services and access to records*



### Financial Sustainability

- **Dues**  
*Online payments and Lifetime membership*
- **Fundraisers**  
*Introduce fundraising initiatives*
  - *Walk of Fame Initiative*
  - *Benevolent Foundation Participation*
- **Investments**  
*Planned Giving and Endowment and Insurance Programs*



### Marketing & Communications

- **Corporate Sponsorship**  
*Partnerships and Matching Gifts*
- **Branding Strategy**  
*Increased social media presence and external marketing strategy*
- **Community Outreach**  
*Cradle to College Program and Medical Foundation Initiative*



## ~ Call for Submissions ~



### “SCOTTISH RITE REFLECTIONS” Project

**All** Scottish Rite Masons of the Northern Jurisdiction are invited to submit essays on the topic of **“What the Scottish Rite Means to Me”**. Selected submissions will be included in a multi-volume series titled “Scottish Rite Reflections” and made available for purchase through multiple channels including **www.Amazon.com**. Submit your essay to **Bulletin@AndrewsPress.com** by **March 1, 2021** to be considered for the first volume. Please be advised that all submissions become the intellectual property of the United Supreme Council Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, PHA, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc.

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# The Sovereign Grand Commander

## GET OUT AND VOTE

We've lost two icons in the civil rights movement a day before the birthday of the late Nelson Mandela. Rev. Cordy Tindell "C.T." Vivian and Illustrious John Robert Lewis, 33<sup>o</sup>, patriotic citizens who believed in



respect for civil authority and getting into "good trouble". Just like our Illustrious

Brother Lewis, Scottish Rite Masons are taught similar values, and to exercise one of the most patriotic duties, which is our right to vote.

Prior to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Prince Hall Masons enjoyed the privilege of voting in their Lodges...even though Black people in America were unable to. So much so, that in many jurisdictions it is considered a Masonic offense not to vote or abstain from voting in a Masonic Lodge.

As Scottish Rite Masons who owe their allegiance to the United Supreme Council AASR, PHA, NJ, USA Inc., I encouraged you to vote in the 2020 elections...considered to be the most important election of our lifetimes. I asked that you do more than just vote, I asked that you encourage, educate, and support those around you to understand the public policies that will affect their communities and the importance of voting at all levels, not just for President.

Every Orient should have had a "Get Out the Vote" initiative that starts at the Deputy level and is announced during the Council of Deliberation. We asked that Valley Overseers and Vice Presidents work to ensure that every Illustrious Peer, Sublime Prince, and Loyal Lady is not only registered, but that they are working to provide education and registration information within their communities.

For information and education, please visit the NAACP Our Vote, Our Voice campaign site for more information at <https://www.naacp.org/vote/>.



*Fraternally, Yours in the Rite*  
*Illustrious Melvin J. Bazemore*  
*Sovereign Grand Commander*



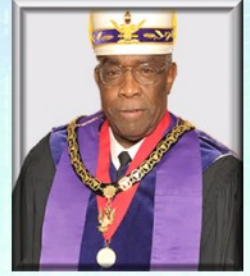
Lt. Grand Commander

## “Lift as You Climb with Deeds, Not Just Words”

As we face some economic setbacks we are committed to continue being that “ROAD MAP for our Youth, and for those who are in need of Assistance and are standing at the CROSS ROADS of LIFE between NOWHERE and OPPORTUNITY”.

Time is drawing near for your “annual” donations to the “Benevolent Foundation”. On receipt of your letter from our Sovereign Grand Commander the Honorable Melvin J. Bazemore requesting your support, we now have several options for your donation. If you prefer not to send a check or M.O., please check our Website for other methods for payment.

**Enhancing your Experience, Service, and Commitment thru Action, Accountability and Sustainable Results. “We remain prayerful”.**



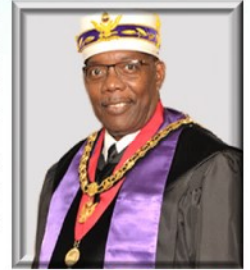
*Sovereign Grand Inspector General Sidney D. Broadnax, Jr., 33°*

Secretary General

First giving honor to the G.A.O.T.U. for his many blessings. It is my hope that all is well with all of you and your families. Through these unprecedented times we had to really come up with new and innovated ideas. This past March our way of living and doing business was interrupted by an invisible beast, the Coronavirus (COVID-19). This virus had a huge impact on this United Supreme Council. Numerous decisions had to be made for the safety of our members and keeping an open line of communications to our membership. This included issues related to monthly meetings and the decisions concerning our annual session. Following all city and state governmental stay at home order, the Cathedral was forced to temporarily suspend business through March and working two days a week through April but we prevailed.

The Office of the Secretary General is back on our normal schedule but are following all the recommended C.D.C. safety precautions. All Scottish Rite activity throughout the entire Northern Jurisdiction was suspended, and later to include the cancellation of the United Supreme Council Session in Cincinnati, OH. In the latter part of May we had to close our door once again for about a week, due to the civil unrest in Philadelphia behind the death of George Floyd. Through the leadership of our Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. Melvin J. Bazemore, we continued to operate, utilizing the video technology of (ZOOM) conferencing.

On Saturday, May 23, 2020, we conducted the first virtual United Supreme Council Session, as constitutionally required. We reviewed all fiscal and necessarily required reports and Annual Audit for approval by the Active membership. Prior to the session we conducted our annual Deputy's Conference and both went extremely well. We also conducted the first virtual reclassification. This invisible beast, Corona Virus (COVID 19), may have temporarily knocked us down but we have learned to adapt. We will get back to some since of normalcy again very soon, but in the meantime, be safe and may God bless you all.



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

Grand Recording Secretary

Greetings to All, Wheresoever dispersed across the nation and globe. As we have successfully pivoted and adjusted to new ways of doing business and communicating with each other, we have shown our resiliency and determination in our support of each other both locally and nationally. This is a hallmark of our organization, rising above the challenges of the day, remaining steadfast and focused in making a difference. During this time a couple of new initiatives have been approved and released:

1. [Our Annual Raffle](#) is under way lead by Ill. Johnny Cummings (NE) and his committee, please contact your Deputy to support this initiative.
2. [Our Lifetime Membership Program](#) has been rolled out to all Honorary, Emeritus and Active members of the United Supreme Council. This initiative is lead by Ill. Wayne Phillips (MI) and his committee. Please go to USC website to sign up. This is a great way to support and leave a legacy into perpetuity.



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

Please stay safe and healthy, Wear your Mask, Wash your hands and a keep your distance from others. Finally, get out and vote, take someone with you to vote, help someone to register to vote, vote by mail, vote early, make sure your Vote on 3 November counts! Keep making a difference!

Editorial

Thank you for your feedback on the last edition. The Spring 2020 Bulletin focused on the Enhancements Mission as defined by the USC Strategic Plan. This edition will place a focus on the third mission that was presented in the **Strategic Plan—Financial Stability**. COVID-19 has had global impacts. Yet, despite the tragedies of this pandemic, the United Supreme Council has met the needs of its members and the charitable needs of many communities. Its ability to absorb the impacts and continue operations provides evidence to the degree of its financial stability. This is due to the dedication of our leadership and members whose contributions have kept finances stable while providing service to those who need it most. Stellar financial management has placed us in this position. Continual support will ensure future stability.

Introspective writings from our columnists are also highlighted in this edition to focus on the concepts of patriotism, love and the pursuit of perfection. The continual focus on history remains a priority in order to remove the mystery from it. All in all, It is my hope that this edition gives everyone something to think about while helping to clarify the aims and objections of the Strategic Plan of the United Supreme Council.



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

# USC Virtual Session

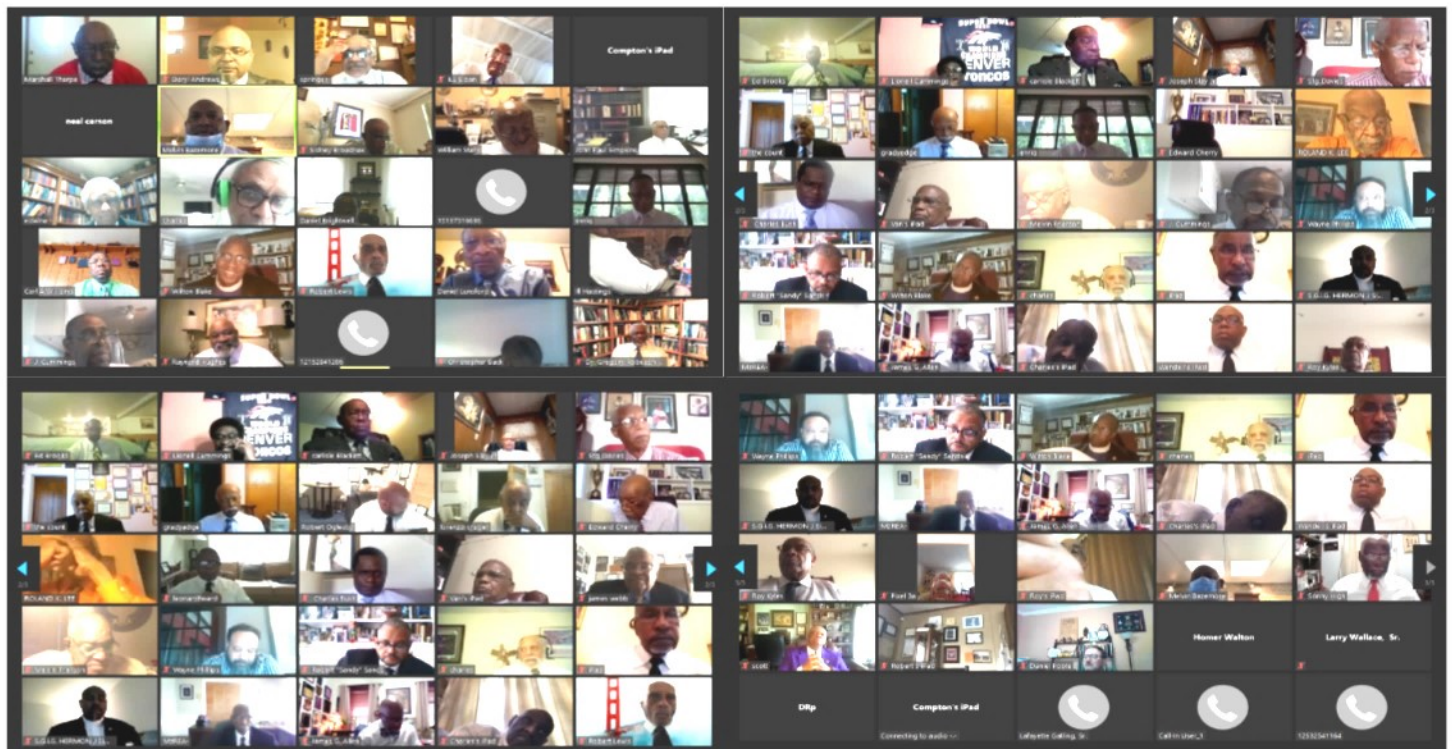
Technology advances have allowed the United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, PHA, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc. (USC-NJ) to continue the uninterrupted trend of Executive Sessions through the COVID-19 crisis. On May 23, 2020, the very first virtual session of the USC-NJ was conducted via a secure video conference call. Consisting of Actives and essential personnel, the session focused on progress against the Strategic Plan adopted in 2019.

The virtual session itself was conducted through ZOOM which is a secure video conferencing system that allows discussion and the sharing of electronic documents in a protected format. Entry into the session was controlled by Sovereign Grand Inspector General Daniel R. Poole, the meeting host. All attendees were attired in suit and tie as shown below and were prepared to conduct the business of the USC-NJ through this new format.

The vision presented by Sovereign Grand Commander Melvin J. Bazemore in 2019 is being realized through the missions that have been put into place. Prior to COVID-19,

plans were in play to host enrichment presentations for the purpose of promoting Scottish Rite Education at the annual session in alignment with the **Membership Mission**. Pending COVID-19 restrictions, these will resume in 2021. New electronic communications and transactional capabilities have confirmed that the **Enhancements Mission** has hit its mark. The financial state of the USC-NJ is solid and poised to grow with implementations through the **Financial Sustainability Mission**. A solid financial state combined with the community outreach that has occurred, has helped to strengthen the brand of the Scottish Rite in the eyes of the public. All in all, the

products of the aforementioned missions have provided a basis upon which the **Marketing and Communications Mission** can build. As eyes now turn toward the 2021 Annual Session, it is very clear that the USC-NJ is moving forward from a position of great strength. Implementation of the Strategic Plan has laid firm footings for the future. The continued efforts of the leadership and the membership have not only improved operations internally but have also allowed more charitable actions to be implemented externally. Their continued practice will create long-term success and guarantee the integrity of the Scottish Rite for years to come.



# SAVING OUR YOUTH: “FROM CRADLE TO COLLEGE”

## 2019-20 School Year Annual Report—A Vision of the United Supreme Council, NJ

SGIG Horace Jackson, 33°, Mentoring Committee Chairman; SGIG Charles Burns, 33°, Asst Chairman



COVID-19 has our nation in dire straits. We must follow the Guidelines established by our Sovereign Grand Commander so that we remain safe in these trying times. Therefore, because of the pandemic this article will not report on the Mentoring of the participating Orients (Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, New Jersey and Washington/Oregon), but will instead provide some useful mentoring tips.

## TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL MENTORING: “CONVERSATIONS”

What makes mentoring such a special process? Consider these three things:

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

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

### A. CREATE A RHYTHM AND FLOW

Conversations between mentees and mentors represent the foundation of mentoring relationships and provide a mechanism for development to occur. The quality of these conversations will directly impact the value they have on the mentee’s development.

Mentoring conversations should have a rhythm and flow. This occurs by having a set pattern to the conversations that you can use time and again. Each time you meet with your mentee or mentor, talk about:

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

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

### B. TURN CONVERSATIONS INTO ACTIONS

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

#### BE GOAL ORIENTED

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

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

#### BE PRACTICAL

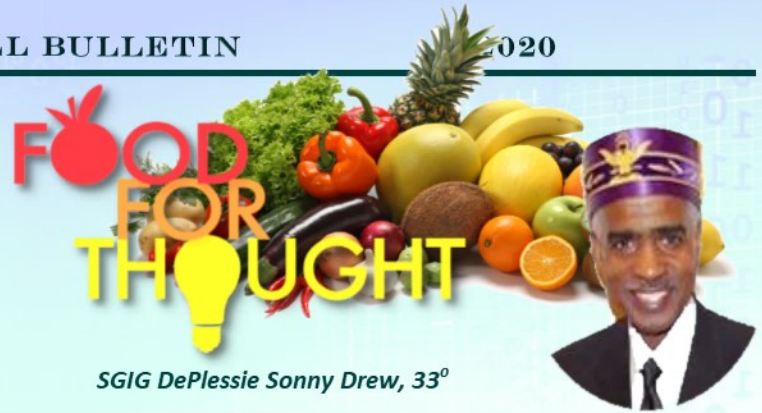
**Mentees:** Attempt to apply new learning or awareness in a common and straightforward way. Take on actions that put the basic principles of your conversation into play and report back to your mentor regarding your experience and observations to stimulate further discussion.

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

#### BE A MODEL

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

Once again, my life experiences determine what I should write about. One Saturday morning, my doorbell rang. I was expecting someone, so I ran downstairs to open the door. To my surprise, it was not who I was expecting. Instead, it was two young ladies who are Jehovah's Witnesses. I enjoyed the conversation we had; not so much for what they said to me, but for what I had the opportunity to say to them. For most of us, the knowledge of this faith ends by us closing the door on them or peeking out of our windows, waiting for them to leave.



SGIG DePlessie Sonny Drew, 33<sup>o</sup>

## Religion

I was telling some of the brothers about my conversation with the young ladies and one of the brothers became offended because, as he stated, several members of his family are Jehovah's Witnesses. Everything in life is how we perceive it. Everything also has a positive and a negative. Our struggle is to train the mind to focus on the positive and leave the negative alone. The brother became hung up on the negative and could not see the positive.

When Jehovah's Witnesses go to their meetings at the Kingdom Hall, they call it "the truth". So, from "the truth", it basically makes you stop and look at what's really happening at the moment. After much comparative religious studies, it leads me to the conclusion, it's all the same premise, it's just different cultures.

**Religion:** "The special belief of members is not interfered with by Freemasonry. Let a man's religion, or mode of worship be what it may, he is not excluded from the order, provided he believes in the glorious architect of heaven and earth, and practice the sacred duties of morality. Thus Masonry is the center of union between good men and true, and the means of cementing friendship between those who otherwise might have remained perpetual strangers."

### Think About It!

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

#### C. GIVE THANKS

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

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

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

mentor to begin expressing your gratitude:

*I am grateful for . . .*

*I appreciate when you . . .*

*I find it helpful when you . . .*

*I value you and try to show you by . . .*

*Your partnership with me means . . .*

*Our conversations help me . . .*

*Your personality/attitude/insights/experience/  
openness helps me . . .*

*This relationship has given me . . .*

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

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

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



# TWELFTH 5

## Our History Should not Be a Mystery: Part XII DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CONSISTORIES ORIGINATED?

“I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious.”—Albert Einstein

*Submitted by S.G.I.G. Reginald B. Stewart 33°, Grand Historian*



This edition marks the 6<sup>th</sup> year that this series has been printed. I am grateful. I appreciate the vim and vigor our Editor, G.I.G. Daryl L. Andrews 33°, has exhibited thus far with respect to compiling our *Bulletin* twice yearly. To the Lovely Ladies of the Cathedral—Ms. Renee Isaac and Ms. Debbie Miles—thank you for your continuous grants of assistance. Reserving the greatest gratitude for last I say “Thank You” to our **Sovereign Grand Commander Melvin J. Bazemore 33°** for his interest in the resurgence of academic scholarship as it pertains to masonic history.

### HOLY SEPULCHRE CONSISTORY #17

#### Valley of Boston—Orient of Massachusetts

*Constituted July 4, 1908*

The Scottish Rite history of the Valley of Boston is as varied as it is interesting. There has been a Scottish Rite presence there since at least early 1883 when the Orient of Massachusetts and New Hampshire was formed:

- ◆ *In 1884, Illustrious Peter W. Ray 33°, of the DeBulow Supreme Council, chartered a Consistory. Its disposition is unknown.*
- ◆ *In 1889, King Solomon Consistory #6 was chartered. This Consistory lasted about 10 years.*
- ◆ *In 1890, Boston Consistory #9 was officially chartered of under the obedience of the United Supreme Council, Northern Jurisdiction. It enjoyed a fairly short life officially, but had been organized in or around 1883.*
- ◆ *In 1897, another Consistory was chartered by John G. Jones, but the Fraters became disillusioned with him after not received books and patents promised them.*
- ◆ *In 1901, the United Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction attempted to set up a Consistory, but the attempt failed.*

Finally, after many fits and starts, **Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander Joshua D. Kelley 33°**, along with the Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief and Deputy for the Orient of New York, **S.G.I.G. William Oscar Payne 33°**, and a few others initiated candidates; set apart the coordinate bodies; and instituted the Consistory on July 4, 1908. This was a true independence day for those Fraters who were members. Prior to this they had to travel to either Providence, Rhode Island or New Haven, Connecticut—1 and 2 hours away,



respectively—to practice Scottish Rite freemasonry.

Of note is there at least one member of this Consistory will be forever memorialized by having a Class of Grand Inspectors General named in his honor. The **Collins-Wooten Class of 1983** honored, in part, **S.G.I.G. Cleo W. Wooten 33°**, who was an honorary Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and had been a member of freemasonry for at least 40 years.



Inexplicably, this Consistory is also listed as home to our third Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander, **S.G.I.G. David C. Gray 33°**. However, this cannot be as **Commander Gray** was an Active member as early as 1883. His original Consistory membership has not been confirmed. This Consistory helped pave the way for the chartering of Syria Temple No. 31 in the Oasis of Boston in March of the following year.

Thanks to the late **S.G.I.G. Henry L. Owens 33°**, Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief and Deputy for the Orient of Massachusetts and **G.I.G. Yves Maignan 33°**, both of Springfield Consistory #89, Valley of Springfield, Orient of Massachusetts for their assistance.

### UTICA CONSISTORY #45

#### Valley of Syracuse—Orient of New York

*Chartered May 22, 1920*

This Consistory was eponymously named for the city in which it was first chartered. Utica’s Lodge of Perfection is named “Mohawk.” The city of Utica sits on the Mohawk River in the Mohawk Valley and both are named after the Mohawk Nation of Native Americans.

This Consistory was organized on April 2 and formally chartered in May 1920. In September, the signed charter was hand delivered by **Most Puissant**



# HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR RITE?

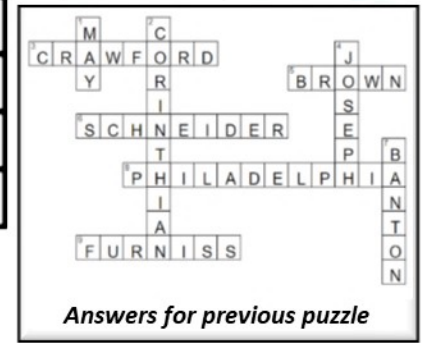
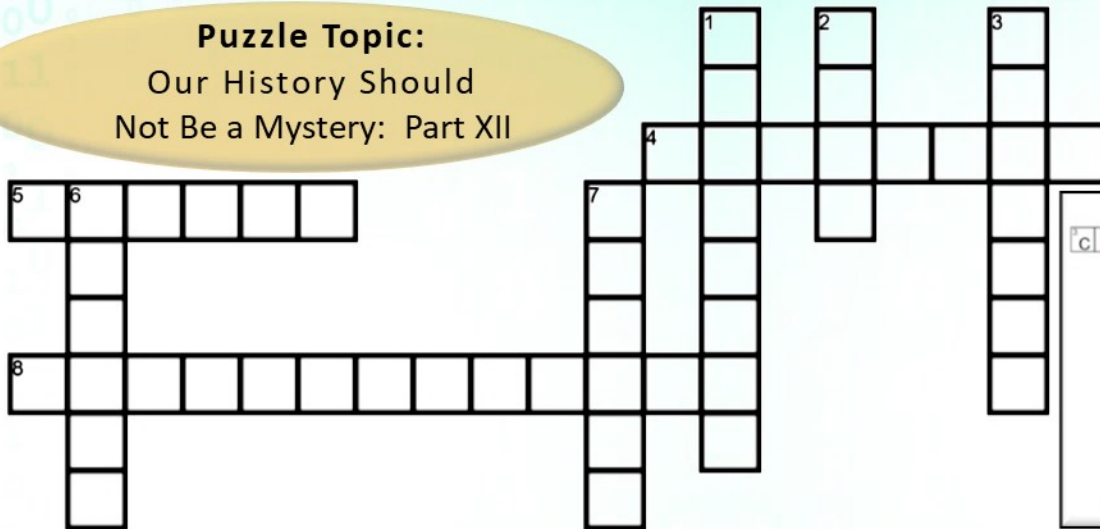
**ACROSS**

- 4. Members of Inland were first organized as the \_\_\_\_\_ Club prior to becoming a Consistory
- 5. "Alpha Jewel" George \_\_\_\_\_ Kelley was a charter member of Utica Consistory
- 8. The Orient of Holy Sepulchre Consistory

**DOWN**

- 1. City of Utica Consistory #45
- 2. Last Name of the Third Sovereign Grand Commander
- 3. King \_\_\_\_\_ Consistory #6
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_ Consistory is in the Valley of Spokane
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_ Consistory #9 in 1890 (See Page 8)

**Puzzle Topic:**  
Our History Should  
Not Be a Mystery: Part XII



**Sovereign Grand Commander James F. Rickards 33°**. Of note, one of the seven Jewels (founders) of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.—George Biddle Kelley—was also a charter member of this Consistory. The Consistory moved to the Valley of Syracuse in 1976. At least 27 years prior, the Supreme Council, 33°, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction chartered a Utica Consistory #2. That Consistory sunsetted and a new one was chartered in its place—Mohawk Consistory—in September 1921.



Thanks to **G.I.G. Ludwick Hall 33°**, Long Island Consistory #61, Valley of Brooklyn, Orient of New York for his assistance.

**INLAND CONSISTORY #78**

**Valley of Spokane—Orient of Washington/Oregon**

*Chartered May 9, 1967*



The story of this Consistory's formation was a long time in the making. In 1959, **S.G.I.G. Russell S. Gideon 33°**, then serving as the Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief and Deputy for the Orient of Washington, led the way. The city of Spokane is about 3 hours east of Seattle where the next closest Consistory—Prince Hall Consistory #67—is located. In order not to endure a long drive west to participate it became necessary for those desirous of receiving the degrees of the Scottish Rite to organize a Consistory for their city and surrounding areas. Beginning with the formation of the Triangle Club led by future Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Sylvester J. Lake, **Illustrious Gideon**, along with a team of officers and degree team members from Prince Hall Consistory #67, made regular treks to Spokane to Advance candidates. These trips happened intermittently over the next few years until the requisite number had been reached culminating in the Triangle Club receiving a charter under dispensation in May 1966. During the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Session in May 1967 this body was formally chartered as Inland Consistory #78.



# "LOVE" IS THE ELIXIR OF LIFE

GIG Charles R. Barfield, 33°



*"If you seek religion, find a church. If you seek spirituality then look deep into yourself. The temple within is always open." - Barfield*

## God's Love & The Cable Tow

*A personal perspective of God's Divine Blessing and Love*

### GOD'S LOVE

1 John 4:7, 11 and 13 Beloved let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. because love is from God; everyone who love is born of God and knows God. John:1:1 Beloved if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. Herby know we that we dell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his spirit."

The perspectives and interpretations in this paper are those of the author and do not represent the general thinking of All masons. They are meant to show the connection between God, Masonry, my spirituality and walk with God. Finally, it is intended to cause readers to explore the nuance of their belief.

Throughout the ages, great philosophers and poets throughout antiquity have attempted to define love. Is it an emotion—which would suggest a chemical brain reaction to physical stimuli or, as some have argued, it comes from the heart while others take a more spiritual approach defining love. Plato, Socrates, Aristotle are some of the most notables in antiquity who tried to define love. According to Webster's dictionary " poets throughout millennium have touted the virtue of love and immortalized it in the sonnets and poems." Early Christian fathers contemplated the connection between God and man, the higher self and His love for man.

### SPIRIT OF GOD

After pondering the route of love and how it has been defined over millennia and its effects on human behavior, I am convinced that multiple variables are involved i.e. philosophy, human character, life experiences, beliefs and one's spirituality and, I am sure, some intangibles. According to Webster's' dictionary "Poets throughout the millennium have touted the virtue of love and immortalized it in their sonnets and poems."<sup>1</sup> It is a common belief that universal love originated with God. According to Genesis 1:1, the universe and man were created by the word of God—"In the beginning the earth. And the earth was void and without form; and the darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said Let there be light and there was light---a universe was born." God also saw fit "to create night and day",

Genesis 1:16—the waters (the sustenance of life), the firmament, the animals, the fish, fowl, the grass, fruit" - all that is sustainable in preparation for His ultimate creation---Man. Genesis 26:27—"God said let us make man in our image and likeness. And the lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils and the breath of life." In Ephesians 1:4-5 God says "I chose you when I planned creation."<sup>2</sup>

The meaning of life and love has a spiritual beginning and evolved with the evolutions of man. It appears that divine intelligent understood the importance of love as a way to bind man together for the common good. Love is the awaking of the soul, the personification of God, the essence of life, the purity of the soul, the moment when the human spirit sheds its primordial desires and looks deep into the soul for an ultimate union with the spirit of God.

### ESSENCE OF LOVE

God, being the ultimate pinnacle of love, transcends the rationalization between what is seen, known and perceived. God is omniscient, omnipresent, He is, the essence of everything. Love is not a creation of happenstance. It is the "I am" of the spirit. God in His infinite and eternal wisdom realized universal love would be the cement to bind His creations. That love would not only be for His adoration and glory but also to solidify the bonds between man and all creation. The realm of the divine is replete with mysteries—a kaleidoscopic tapestry representing universal nuance of all that is. Genetically, we are eternally and spiritually one with God. We are enshrouded and protected by His grace and love. Even when darkness attempts to supplant light, the eternal flame continues to burn brightly lighting the way.

The power of love is predicated upon the higher self that spiritual connection to the godhead that exists in all mankind. That affinity that allows man direct access to the universal knowledge of who God is (the higher self). Nature bows down to the glory of God rather and compliments His very nature.

As masons, we are taught to divide our time into three equal parts emblematical of the twenty-four hours of the day. To compartmentalize our days not with idle meandering but dividing our time in ways that are tributes to the blessings of life and our infinite relationship with God.

The middle chamber teaches us that masonry is a contemplative science and knowledge is key to personal and masonic growth. The same holds true in the pursuit of spiritual growth. Masonry however, is more than the study of signs and symbols It's the study of life and the wonders of creation. The bible is replete with overt and

subtle inferences to life; how to live a purpose driven life in the pursuit of a spiritual metamorphosis; a coalescing of the higher self with that of the divine reality to achieve oneness with God. In symbolic masonry, it is said that the three degrees represents the various stages of our life. The question that has to be explored is "What is life and it's deeper meaning?" The question requires a thirst for knowledge, an attentive ear and an acute awareness of self. Life is constantly unfolding and providing teachable moments[. teachable moments]. God speaks to the Godhead within us. His messages and actions are clear, precise and absolute and given to all.

### **CREATION IS AN ACT OF LOVE**

The heavens represent more than the stars and planets, its God's way of giving us a visual of the vastness of His creation. In essence it is a way for us to explore that which has yet to be understood. His love is like the vastness of space it's infinite. His love is so vast it cannot be computed with any known measure. Therefore, it behooves us to stop trying to rationalize His love and to simply embrace it. We as masons profess a belief in the divine architect and obligate ourselves to that belief . I must admit, that the Deity means something different to each of us. But at the end of the day, He is the one true God to us all regardless of how we perceive or name him.

The heart from time immemorial has been the receptacle for love (so say the poets, philosophers and biblical writers). When asked how we were made a mason "in our heart," IT WAS the natural transition to brotherly love and friendship. This concept is embedded throughout the bible. God's plan for man is and has always been perfect harmony, and co-existence among each other. In order for man to accomplish God's plan, he has to evolve into his higher self where the euphoria of love is constant and forgiveness is never in doubt. To love God is to love your neighbor after all, we are our brother's keepers. This is reflective in the Masonic Cable Tow which is spiritual.

### **THE CABLE TOW**

The Masonic cable tow is an extension of God's love. The cable tow should always be available and act as a magnet towards all mankind masons and non-masons alike. The journey into masonry takes us on a journey into the unknown crevices of our minds and requires major introspection into our soul, where light and darkness meet and the past and present comes together and fear and love battle for supremacy. God spoke clearly and definitively when He said. "ask and it shall be done." What better moment than a quiet moment with God.

He further promised that His presence is always near, we should never fear, and He is ever ready to wipe away our tears. Christ, the personification of God spoke of faith and commitment to the one true God and the unyielding powers of faith and prayer. That no prayer goes unanswered Matthew 7:7-8 "Ask and it shall be given to

you, seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God" St John1:1, Mark 9:23 " Jesus said unto him. If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth". Matthew 19:26 "Jesus talking with his disciples " behelds them, and said unto them, with men this is not possible; but with God all things are possible."

There are numerous references in the bible of God's presence as revealed by the prophets of antiquity, Enoch, Moses, Isaiah, Ezekiel to name a few. One classic example is purported in the 3 books of Enoch, that Enoch a Black Ethiopian walked and spoke with God, God spoke to Moses at the burning bush. There are numerous other biblical personalities of both genders who were blessed by his presence. God is always present. We have to stop rationalizing who God is, after all, we are made in the image and likeness of God, therefore, it follows that God is the essence of our being and is always with us.

### **WALK WITH GOD**

Indeed, as masons we are taught to seek light which is life. However, to understand life we have to enter into the contemplative to telescope our minds and introspect our souls to seek the true meaning and purpose of life. What gives meaning to life more than the search for God. Again, what is life but the love of God. It is to the degree that we as children of God open our minds to the higher self is to that degree that we become one with the Godhead that resides in us all.

Author W. L. Wilmshurst in his explanation of Masonic light explains that when a mason wishes more light, it meant "not merely light in the sense of being given some secret information not attainable elsewhere or about any matter of worldly interest, but the opening up of the candidates whole intellectual and spiritual nature in the super-sensual light of the divine world and raising him to God-consciousness." Character and integrity are a natural evolution of our spiritual walk with God. Our divine nature comes well-endowed and eager for its walk with God. The divine speaks to us through our conscience sometimes in concrete terms and other times He tests us by placing obstacles and nuances before us. The significance of His nuances is to see if we are listening.

For a moment consider an alternative interpretation of Adam and Eve disobeying Gods commandment not to eat of the tree of life and knowledge. Why was Eve enticed to eat of the tree of knowledge rather than the tree of life? Is it possible that Eve Adam were enticed to eat of the tree of knowledge to become like God, but to jump start man's evolution; To face the unknown to search for meaning and understanding? In Genesis 3:22 "And the lord God said, behold the man is become as one with us., to know good and evil, and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also

of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever". Here again, an example of God's love—even though they tested God's authority by disobeying His commandment not to eat of the tree of knowledge, His love prevailed. He did not abandon Adam and Eve or Humanity. Their banishment from the garden of Eden perhaps was not a punishment, but a way for them to atone for their disobedience.

### **NUANCES OF THE INDWELLING OF GOD'S LOVE**

The challenge for a Mason is to find his tree of knowledge and to explore the infinite possibilities of his existence. God's love is as ancient as time and requires more than bible verses and literal interpretations of scripture to understand God and to evolve spiritually. If we are to explore the meaning of our creation, we have to first engage our higher self with sincere introspection. Without which, the journey is in vain. God's love is so enormous and complete it transcends boundaries, it permeates and blankets the very nature of man's conscientiousness. Love is a lesson in humility, obedience, fidelity, contemplation and introspections.

It is the virtues of God's love that binds mankind together. Without love humanity would disappear and allow all of our vices and superfluities to become our rule and guide. His love is so complete and ever reaching that all that is perceived, real or imagined is metaphoric in an attempt to quantify his presence. The nuance of the level and the plumb is recognition of his omnipresence and omnipotence that binds all living creations to God. Like a symphonic concerto the spirit, the soul of mankind is reminiscent of the sun at its meridian height: an illumination of the soul. A soft whisper as the soul speaks reminding us that we are in essence spirit living out a human existence. Is this not the realm in which, great philosophers ancient and modern began their journey into the nuances of the unknown i.e. medicine, science, language, thought, technologies, God and life itself.

### **CRITICALLY THINKING RELATIONS WITH GOD & MAN**

God endowed mankind with free will and the ability for critical thought as evident in the nuance of the Middle Chamber. It is replete with the tools for not only survival but success. The Middle Chamber teaches definitively the lessons of life; the intellectual, moral and fortitudes of life, it lifts the cloud of uncertainty and provides a clear path to light. Jesus preached love and forgiveness with an emphasis on the gnosis, a journey of introspection to the higher self. Indeed, to understand God and to explore the depth and breadth of one's inner sanctum and to lift the veil of uncertainty, one has to understand that we are always at the right hand of God and the recipients of his love. Without an internal perspective of the higher self, Illusions become real and misleading.

If God is omnipotent and omnipresent it follows that He knows our thoughts and concomitant actions. Serious introspection that takes us beyond our individuality to a place where the variables of life

merge. Love is the towel of mediation "that cements the brotherhood of man more especially a brother mason into one common band and society". Universal love not only binds man together it exists in all living creations. It is an intangible that can only be felt and never quantified. Love is not happenstance but represents the primordial beginnings of the universe. The great Architect exists in perpetuity and can never be replaced or denied. 10th century Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, from the Tannad'Bai Elyrya Medieval Rabbinic Work, regarding Jewish wisdom stated: "God's Deepest Hope: this is what the holy one said to Israel: My Children what do I seek from you? I seek from you no more than that you love one another and honor one another."<sup>4</sup>

### **CONNECTION OF GOD'S LOVE & THE CABLE TOW**

How does the cable tow reflect God's love? The author wishes to provide his personal perspective on the connection between God's love and the cable tow. In Masonry the cable tow symbolically and by nuance is an extension of God's love. The cable tow is not only an extension of God's love it's the essence of life itself. As masons advances through the many degrees and houses within the Masonic order and his learning is internalized, it becomes a recognizable truth that within the many obligation that he takes, is the spirit of the cable tow... It's a reminder of the true purpose of God's will and universal design. In Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, the pinnacle and highest form of Masonic achievement, where learning and teachings coalesces encompassing the totality of Masonic teachings, the cable tow is a significant guiding principles. Masonry is predicated on the ability to bring men to together and make better men out of them.

### **VOW OF BROTHERLY LOVE**

The Masonic bible and Masonic law define the cable tow as such: "Ancient laws of Free Masonry, every brother must attend his Lodge if within the length of his cable tow, or a cable's length," to be three miles for an Entered Apprentice, Charles H. Merz Masonic Bible school and library reference edition, 1951, "The Cable tow is also used in all three degrees and has various symbolic meanings. The cable tow is a visible symbol of a vow in which a man has pledged himself to that which he holds dear as of high esteem. Its length is determined by the ability of the man to fulfill his obligation to that which he has vowed (love of God, country and his fellow man).<sup>5</sup> Knights Templar magazine index archive of articles: "It's a symbol of brotherly love and friendship. It binds masons together in the spirit of love and his relationship with his fellow man. Masonically, he is obligated to keep the secrets, practice fidelity, fortitude and truth among other obligations. Each degree provides a pathway to more learning and understanding of self and the intimate relationship between himself and God".<sup>6</sup> To reiterate, the cable tow has various meanings and interpretations and each degree offers different meanings and perspectives.

## INTROSPECTION & EXPLORATION OF HIGHER SELF

The second degree is as all the degrees, but especially the second degree are nuance degrees that not only explains its obligation and expectations, but nuances Gods gifts to man to actualize those expectations. God gave man the ability to think and expand his imaginations. Albert Einstein on imagination posited the following: "Imagination is the preview of life's coming attractions."<sup>7</sup> With the ability to think came discernment, introspection, critical thinking, truth and the ability to envision and explore the unknown. According to John White, in his book entitled Freemasonry's Secrets: when a mason wishes for more light in, it meant "not merely light in the sense of being given some secret information not attainable elsewhere or about any matter of worldly interest, but the opening up of the candidate's whole intellectual and spiritual nature in the super-sensual light of the divine world and raising him to God-consciousness."<sup>8</sup>

The cable tow is an extension of life, an extension of the love of the Grand Architect of the Universe. As mentioned in the body of this paper, His love is boundless and permeates every aspect of life. The cable tow is symbolic of all life's interactions from conception to death. The subtleties of its importance are often overlooked and at times under estimated and misunderstood. The less informed are oblivious to its significance and fail to realize the symbolic nature of its origin. It is one of the ancient mysteries whose origin can be found scribed in the caves and walls of primordial man. Albert Churchward in "Signs and Symbols of Primordial Man states that the signs and symbols of free masonry can be found on the walls of caves dating back to primordial man, the pigmies of ancient Africa."\* Early primitive societies, as far as we know, was based on cooperation, bonding (love) and a belief in a higher being. Early primitive man was oblivious to God's plan for the evolution of man but instinctively knew that the unknown was not a void, dark and bleak.

## CONNECTION WITH YOUR SPIRITUAL NATURE

The candidate is introduced to the cable tow upon their entry into masonry. The journey of faith and trust begins. They are blind folded and have to rely on trust and their senses and wait with patience while subduing their passions. Blind folded and attached to a cable tow they are to put their faith in God their guide as they circumambulate the lodge. In other words, a lesson in faith and trust. Albert Pike in "Morals and Dogma" states: "The true mason is a practical philosopher, who under the religious emblems adopted by wisdom, builds upon plans traced by nature and reason, the moral edifice of knowledge." The cable tow teaches reliance, trust and faith, character and in particular introspection; without the connection to the higher self it becomes next to impossible to extend a cable. To quote Jesus Christ, in the Gospel of Thomas he states: "if you look out the birds will precede you if you look down the fish will precede you" a simple parable that conceals a deep meaning.<sup>9</sup> The cable

tow is not unique to masonry, it has been in existence since the beginning of time, "Did not God say let us make man in our imagine?" The cable tow symbolically represents an acknowledgement of human compassion. Signs and symbols are interrelated and while they appear separate and distinct they form the perfect symmetry for self-assurance, critical thought, independence and reasoning. "To conceal is to reveal" according to Pike.<sup>10</sup> The Masonic cable tow, is an extension of the universality of brotherly love and friendship that extends beyond Masonic symbolism to the ever-reaching extension of God's love. According to Albert Pike, regarding Operative Mason's states: "In the ancient and exalted meaning of that term. That is to say, they would have become master operators of the facilities, capacities and powers of their own Souls taken from the Great Work as it appears in the writings of Thomas M. Stewart."<sup>11</sup> Again quoting: "From the foregoing it will be observed that the work of the initiate in the Great School is that of a builder'; from the beginning to the end of his labors he is building the Temple of Human Character. This he does upon the solid rock of Enduring Truth, and 'when the temple is complete' it stands as a column of unfading 'Light' to illuminate the pathway of life to all who travel that way."<sup>12</sup>

Another Masonic example of the extension of God's love is witnessed in the symbolic ritualistic representation of the working tool for the third degree. To the profane it represents the difference between operative masonry and speculative masonry. Symbolically however, it's meant to convey bonding and love and cooperation and the spread of brotherly love and affection (God's plan); the building of purpose, the elimination of contention and to foster forgiveness (God's plan). After all, are we not our brothers' keepers.

The true nature of the cable tow is to facilitate the extension of God's love for all mankind; as the lord's prayer states: "Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in haven." It appears that God has designated earth as another house not built with hands??? Charles R. Barfield, in his book Perspectives states "The sun shines ever so bright, illuminating the day; the moon lights up the night, and the stars dance through the heavens---what a sight, they're like a finely tuned symphony in harmony; the music rings out giving glory to God." He further writes in his Prayer of Hope: God grant us the ability to think, to open our hearts and allow love to prevail, to see beyond what our eyes perceive , and to learn to judge with our hearts. After all, we are always in the spirit whether we realize it or not".<sup>13</sup> A walk with God is a walk with hope. It's the way and the light."

Symbolism and nuance are masterful but there is no need for a password to enter into God's grace just a simple prayer. Knowledge OF GOD is a journey into infinity, a journey into the nuance of self, of life defining who you are and hopefully, who you will become IN GOD'S LOVE.

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A PATRIOT

*By Sovereign Grand Inspector General Homer Walton, 33<sup>o</sup>, Grand Seneschal*

Recently, I was made aware of an article by Shaun King, who wrote an opinion piece on why we should be protesting Francis Scott Key, author of the Star-Spangled Banner, which has been adopted by this country as the national anthem. In the article, King outlines how Key, an outspoken bigot, slave owner, and anti-abolitionist who not only advocated but applauded and vigorously backed the murder of Negroes and slaves. This is painfully evident in the largely unknown stanza of his poem, written as a first-hand account of the War of 1812, where he wrote,

*"No refuge could save the hireling and slave  
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."*

While the more widely known stanzas of this piece have been adopted as a symbol of patriotism for the United States, it should be evident to anyone with a decent moral conviction that the intent of Key's philosophy was the disdain, hatred, total dismissal of the Black man in any society, save for his usefulness to the advancement of White persons and their agenda.

King's dissertation goes on to spotlight how these views were not only held by Key, but others who have been credited as founders of our nation, such as Thomas Jefferson, one of the authors of the Declaration of Independence, who was, in fact, a slave owner. In his "Notes on the State of Virginia" he compared Africans to apes. Yet, it is a widely known fact that he bedded several of his Black slaves, impregnating them, then placing these offspring into servitude under the belief that they were 'less than human'.

I want to believe that I am a patriot, inasmuch as I believe in the fundamental concepts of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States that we, as a nation, are created equal, that we are endowed with certain unalienable rights, most notably, the right to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. But it becomes difficult to espouse the tenets of patriotism when it is obvious by the documented actions of those credited with founding this country, that they clearly did not believe that a melanin-rich human was equal to one who is melanin deficient. I have a difficult time in coming to grips with the fact that my ancestors, who were

brought to this land against their will, forced to build, cultivate and improve the welfare of the populace with their blood, sweat, and tears, were – and still to this day – perceived to be inferior to those who fled from so-called tyranny and oppression of the Europeans to create a more fair and democratic form of government "of the people, by the people and for the people." Are we not "the people"? Do we not breathe, bleed, and exist like any other human being? How can one say that they stand for Truth, Justice and the American Way and at the same time, espouse the hateful rhetoric that is put forth by those who would believe that there is any one race of people that is superior to another?

Colin Kaepernick, in his attempt to make a point about police brutality in America, took a knee during the playing of this "anthem" in protest, but the message was lost in the widely misconstrued belief that he was disrespecting the flag of our country. If one were to truly listen to the significance of his argument, it might become clear that he only sought to bring attention to the unmitigated fact that persons of color were being persecuted at the hands of a minority of unchecked law enforcement personnel and that we, as a nation, needed to become aware of and take action against those who would sully the good character of the majority of those who are sworn to serve and protect. Instead, we have been urged by those who are considered "leaders" that his actions were un-American and a disgrace to the values and beliefs of our nation. But when we look at the symbols adopted by our nation and the so-called "patriots" who are credited with their creation, can we really believe that we, as Black Americans, were included in their intentions?

I urge you to do a little research and check your history to see if what you have been taught to believe is actually fact or just a glossing over of the parts of our history that paint us in a not so flattering light. As the generation of today has adopted the phrase to "become woke", let us wake up and become more aware of who we are and what we believe.





# VETERANS' BENEFITS

## FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES & ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS

*G.I.G. Stuart A. Lee II, 33<sup>o</sup> - Keystone # 85, Orient of the Far East*



Since retiring from the military, I have found myself working primarily in the field of Veteran's services, mostly as a Veteran Service Officer (VSO). Currently, I work for the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services as an accredited VSO in Tucson, Arizona where I assist Veterans, surviving spouses, and other eligible family members to process compensation and pension applications, appeal Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) decisions, file for survivors death benefits, apply for aid and attendance, provide information on general state benefits, and assist with questions about Veterans benefits and entitlements. Often, I meet Veterans and their family members that are unaware that these benefits exist or are available to them. For this reason, I write articles such as this as a form of outreach to inform others as well as our membership on the existence of these programs. Although all our membership are not Veterans, they may know a Veteran, surviving spouse, or child of one that may benefit from some of these programs. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss some of the documents required to file a claim for benefits and share some information on VA survivor's benefits, specifically Burial Allowance, Survivors Pension, Aid and Attendance, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

Determining eligibility for Veterans benefits is mostly based on what is listed on a Veteran's proof of service document, most commonly the DD Form 214. However, eligibility may also be verified through the DD Form 214's predecessor, the WD AGO Form 53-55, which was issued to World War II Veterans, and NA Form 13038, which is primarily used to replace a lost or destroyed record of separation. If a surviving spouse or eligible family member does not have any of these documents, they may be requested through the National Personnel Record Center by submitting a Standard Form 180. This form may be obtained from <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html>. Other important documents to have are death certificates, marriage licenses and divorce decrees for both the Veteran and surviving spouse, and birth certificates for children of the Veteran. If the Veteran were in receipt of VA benefits, some of these documents may already be on file with the VA; however, I would maintain the originals or personal copies in a safe and accessible place. Now that we have identified some of the important documents needed, let's discuss the benefits programs.

One of the first benefits applied for after a Veteran's death is VA Burial Allowance. VA Burial Allowance helps cover burial, funeral, and transportation costs. Under certain circumstances, there is also an allowance for a burial plot. Depending upon whether the Veteran's death was caused by a service-connected or non-service-connected disability,

the VA would determine the amount to be paid to the claimant. A service-connected disability is one that was caused by military service and which the Veteran was receiving benefits for, whereas a non-service-connected disability is one that is not the result of the Veteran's military service. To determine the specific monetary benefit regarding burial allowance visit [www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance](http://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance). Other benefits for an eligible surviving spouse or other family member may apply to headstones, markers, medals, burial flags, and the Presidential Memorial Certificate. The state in which the Veteran resides may offer additional benefits as well, such as burial in a state cemetery and pre-registration for burial plots. To be eligible for a VA Burial Allowance, the following criteria must be true:

### **ONE OF THESE RELATIONSHIPS OR PROFESSIONAL ROLES DESCRIBES YOUR CONNECTION TO THE VETERAN. YOU ARE:**

- ◆ The Veteran's surviving spouse **or**
- ◆ The surviving partner from a legal union **or**
- ◆ A surviving child of the Veteran, **or**
- ◆ A parent of the Veteran, **or**
- ◆ The executor or administrator of the Veteran's estate

### **THE VETERAN MUST NOT HAVE RECEIVED A DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE, AND ONE OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES MUST BE TRUE. THE VETERAN DIED:**

- ◆ As a result of a service-connected disability **or**
- ◆ Under VA care at a facility or a VA contracted facility, **or**
- ◆ While traveling with proper authorization, and at VA expense, either to or from a facility for an examination, or to receive treatment or care, **or**
- ◆ With an original or reopened claim for VA compensation or pension pending at the time of death, if they would have been entitled to benefits before the time of death, **or**
- ◆ While receiving VA pension or compensation, **or**
- ◆ While eligible for VA pension or compensation at time of death, but instead received full military retirement or disability pay

### **OR THE VETERAN HAD BEEN OR CHOSEN TO:**

- ◆ get a VA pension or compensation when they died, **or**
- ◆ get military retired pay instead of compensation

Additionally, if a Veteran was in receipt of VA benefits upon their death, it is important to notify the VA. Failure to do so may create an overpayment resulting in the creation of a debt to the VA. Once the VA is notified, they will likely send the surviving spouse or family member information on benefits they may be eligible for. In my experience, most of the surviving spouses I have assisted are initially overwhelmed by the paperwork and do not





know where to start. Furthermore, keep in mind that they are still likely grieving and possibly trying to figure out how they are going to survive, especially if the Veteran was the primary source of income. With all this in mind, I highly recommend obtaining the assistance of a VSO (or Benefits Counselor). I have found that working with a VSO often gives the surviving spouse some relief, as they have someone to assist them with accurately completing applications and identifying additional information needed when applying to the VA for benefits. The next benefit we will cover is Survivors Pension.

Survivors Pension, also referred to as Death Pension, offers a monthly monetary benefit to qualifying surviving spouses and unmarried dependent children of wartime Veterans who meet certain income and net worth limits set by Congress. Often, I find that there is some confusion as to what “wartime service” is? Wartime service does not mean the Veteran had to have served in combat or a recognized combat zone. It means that the Veteran served on active duty during a specific period recognized by law as a “covered wartime period.” There are also requirements pertaining to discharge characterization, time served on active duty, and family income that contribute to determining eligibility. Most surviving spouses I have assisted with claims are over the age of 65 and often time require care and assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs). ADLs are routine activities people do every day without assistance such as bathing, feeding, getting dressed, toileting, and continence. In these types of situations, the VA Aid and Attendance benefit may help tremendously.

The VA Aid and Attendance benefit provides an additional payment to the amount of monthly VA pension for qualified Veterans and survivors. To be eligible or qualified, the claimant must need the assistance of another person to perform ADLs, is confined to a bed for a large portion of the day due to illness, is a patient in a nursing home due to the loss of mental or physical abilities related to a disability, or is legally blind. Often, many elderly claimants have one source of income, which is generally social security. Often, the benefit is less than \$1,500 a month. Now, picture a situation where your mother, father, or grandparent needs aid and attendance, and you are trying to come up with solutions to pay for their care. In the state of Arizona, the average cost of home care is between \$19.50 and \$25 hourly, adult daycare services average \$93 a day statewide, and the average monthly cost for assisted living ranges from \$3,500 to \$5,098. If they need memory care, add on \$720 to \$1,140 to the monthly cost. Depending upon the level of care required, the medical costs often exceed their income. This is an ideal situation where the VA Aid and Attendance benefit may help cover the difference. The last and one of the most beneficial benefits is VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, also referred to as DIC.

DIC is a tax-free monetary benefit paid to a surviving spouse, child, or parent of a service member who died in

the line of duty, or the survivor of a Veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness. For the purposes of this article, we will focus on the survivor of a Veteran who died from a service-related (connected) illness or injury. To be eligible for this benefit, a surviving spouse would have to of been married to the Veteran for at least a year and not remarry before the age of 57. Regarding a surviving child’s eligibility, they may not be married and are under 18 years of age (or under the age of 23 if attending school). These are just some of the eligibility requirements. Visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) to see more criteria. Evidence must also be furnished proving the following:

- ◆ The service member died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive-duty training, **or**
- ◆ The Veteran died from a service-connected illness or injury, **or**
- ◆ The Veteran did not die from a service-connected illness or injury but was eligible to receive VA compensation for a service-connected disability rated as totally disabling for a certain period of time. Visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) for list of requirements.

Additionally, if one or more of the Veteran’s service-connected disabilities were a primary or contributing cause of death, ensure it is listed on the Veteran’s death certificate. This will assist the VA in establishing the Veteran’s death as service connected. Most of the death certificates I have come across have separate sections to list primary and contributing causes of death.

In closing, if you are a Veteran, or a friend or family member of one, please share this information. There is a large population of the Veteran community that are unaware that these benefits exist. Sometimes all it takes is pointing them in the right direction. When in doubt, refer them to a VSO. Most states have a Veterans’ Affairs of Services agency that assists Veterans and survivors with identifying and completing the required paperwork, and submitting it to the VA. You may visit <https://nvf.org/veteran-service-officers> to find a list of State Veterans Affairs Offices.

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- ◆ *Affairs, U.S. Department of Veterans. (5/24/2020). VA Aid and Attendance benefit and Housebound allowance. Retrieved from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - Pension benefits: <https://www.va.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound/>*
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# THE TRIPLE NICKLES

FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES & ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS

G.I.G. Charles Cooper, 33° and G.I.G. Daryl L. Andrews, 33° - Western # 28, Orient of Illinois



History is the backbone of who we are. As men and as Scottish Rite Masons, shame on us if we allow our history to be forgotten. In the diaspora of accomplishments of African American History and in military history, the achievements of the Tuskegee Airmen have become nationally renown. In fact, the former Deputy of the Orient of Illinois, namely Hannibal Cox Sr., is the father of the famed Hannibal Cox who led a squadron of Airmen. Yet, there are others who have made strides on behalf of the nation who we should work to elevate to the same status as the Tuskegee Airmen.

The Triple Nickles, yes "Nickles", were the 555th Parachute Infantry of the United States Army during World War Two. This all-black Airborne unit was organized in 1943. At the time, the United States Army was segregated which prevented black soldiers from participating in already established Airborne units. As such,

on February 25, 1943, the 555th Parachute Infantry Company was constituted. On December 30, 1943, the unit was officially activated at Fort Benning Georgia later moving to Camp McCall in North Carolina in preparation for deployment.

Although the 555th was not deployed overseas during World War Two, it was deployed to the West Coast of the United States to disarm balloon bombs sent to America by Japan in the winter of 1944. Over 10% of the more than 9,000 bombs made it to the coast. They were designed to drop devastating incendiary devices once reaching a certain altitude and it became the task of the 555th to find and disable them and mitigate damage. Over 300 were found in tact. However, nearly 30 exploded causing massive wildfires in California, Oregon and Idaho upon detonation. The 555th parachuted into the fires not only detonating remaining bombs in the area but also quenching those

which had been started. Sustaining only one death during the 28 missions, their techniques resolved all of the fires and are currently utilized today in training smokejumpers.

The 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion was nicknamed the "Triple Nickles" not only because of its numerical designation but also because the selection of 17 of the original 20 members were from the 92nd Infantry (Buffalo) Division. The word "Nickle" was taken from the "Buffalo Nickle" instead of the usual spelling of "nickel" for its uniqueness. In the winter of 1945, they were transferred to Fort Bragg, North Carolina where they made another historic mark. In 1947, they were transferred to the 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. With the transfer of black paratroopers to units in the 82nd Airborne, the 82nd Airborne became the first integrated division in the United States Army.

The establishment of the 555th, like the Tuskegee Airmen, was a milestone particularly for black soldiers. The caliber of the soldiers was of very high quality and their professional standards, skills and fearlessness marked them as pioneers. Their full efforts are not documented which is now driving efforts to remove the mystery from their history. Grand Inspector General Charles Cooper of the Orient of Illinois is currently engaged in an effort to do just that and has worked to secure interest from the Illinois Legislature to promote the contributions of this unit including Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker and Lt. Governor Julianna Stratton (top). Cooper stated "as an Airborne Paratrooper, the history of the Triple Nickles is so important to me. People don't necessarily hear about them. It is important that we tell their story...." Help us to help ourselves capture the complete history of the Triple Nickles. Feel free to touch base with Cooper directly at (773) 613-2719 to help.



# USC CONSTITUTION QUIZ

SCOTTISH RITE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General Thomas R. Hughes Sr., Chairman*

In alignment with the Membership Mission of the United Supreme Council's Strategic Plan, the Scottish Rite Education Committee is placing a focus, in this edition, on the Constitution of the United Supreme Council.

1. When did the United Supreme Council Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc. ordain and establish the Constitutions and General Regulations for its government, its subordinate bodies, and its membership?  
a) May 25, 1955 A.D.    b) April 5, 1957 A.D.    c) May 8, 1954 A.D.    d) May 7, 1955 A.D.
2. Which Article states the name and style of our Supreme Council?  
a) Article 100    b) Article 99    c) Article 116    d) Article 106
3. All powers vested in the Supreme Council shall be exercised exclusively by \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) All Sovereign Grand Inspectors General  
b) Its Active members  
c) All Sovereign & Honorary Grand Inspectors General  
d) Its Active, Past Active, and Emeritus members
4. The membership of the Supreme Council shall be divided into \_\_\_\_ grades, which are \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) 3—Active, Past, and Honorary  
b) 2—Active and Past Active  
c) 4—Active, Emeritus, Past Active, and Honorary  
d) 3—Sovereign Grand Commander, Lieutenant Grand Commander and Grand Minister of State
5. Each Orient having subordinate bodies of the AASR belonging to this jurisdiction, is entitled to one Grand Inspector General for every \_\_\_\_\_ Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret belonging to such bodies within said Orient.  
a) 33    b) 19    c) 15    d) 18
6. The Active membership shall consist of not more than \_\_\_\_ Active members of the Supreme Council.  
a) 33    b) 55    c) 81    d) 60
7. The Thirty-Third Degree is conferred as what type of degree?  
a) Advanced    b) Elevated    c) Honorary    d) Chivalric
8. Persons elected to Honorary membership shall present themselves for \_\_\_\_\_ at the Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council following their elections.  
a) Elevation    b) Advancement    c) Coronation    d) Reclassification
9. Nomination and election of members in any grade shall only be held in \_\_\_\_\_ session.  
a) General    b) Executive    c) Triennial    d) Both b and c
10. Who is entitled to be present at an Executive Session of the Supreme Council?  
a) Sovereign Grand Commander and Deputies only  
b) All Elected Officers of the Supreme Council only  
c) Active members and Emeriti members only  
d) Both a and b

~ THE CORRECT ANSWERS FOR THIS QUIZ WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE 2021 SPRING EDITION ~

**Reference Material:** 2010 Constitution and General Regulations of the United Supreme Council of the AASR of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, INC.



# What it Means to be

Financial stability is about building a financial system that can function in times of prosperity and downfall and can absorb all the good and bad impacts in an economy at any moment. This is accomplished through the creation of conditions where a system will continue to work effectively during the ebbs and flows. Without a focus on financial stabilization, companies and organizations doom themselves to ruin.

## A stable financial system is capable of:

- ♦ efficiently allocating resources
- ♦ assessing and managing financial risks
- ♦ dissipating financial imbalances that arise internally or as a result of significant adverse and unforeseen events

## STABILITY BEGINS WITH A PLAN.

A financial plan is essential to the effective identification and allocation of resources to cover the critical paths of organizations. Processes, therefore, are required to develop and maintain the plan. This is best exhibited through the budget and compliance processes utilized by successful organizations.

A budget is simply a plan of action. The budget should include all projected expenses and income for a specified period of time. Mature budgets account for potential risks and incorporate provisions for unforeseen events. A balanced budget helps to ensure that the financial needs are accounted for and that there is no budget deficit. All in all, a budget provides a clear path against which budget evaluations can successfully occur.

Mature organizations perform budget evaluations on a regular basis. Evaluation of the actual receipts and spending versus the planned receipts and spending helps to

determine the viability of the initial allocations that were planned. Differences, particularly large differences, typically force a detailed assessment of the budgeted line items to explain the discrepancy and produce information that can be utilized to better manage the situation. Ultimately, this type of evaluation produces a record that can be utilized to enhance the budgets of the future.

The compliance verification process helps to ensure adherence to the processes that have been adopted by the organization. The Wells System is the set of financial processes that has been adopted by many Masonic Lodges. Income is received and recorded by the Secretary who returns a receipt to the remitter to document the transaction. The Secretary records the information in a Receipts Book and then turns the collections over to the Treasurer receiving a receipt for the same. The Treasurer records the transaction in a Cash Book and deposits the funds in the timeframe prescribed by the Lodge Bylaws into the Lodge's selected financial institution. Payments are made by the Treasurer on order from the Master with authorization by the Lodge. The documentation starts with the Secretary who records that order in a minutes book, creates a written order on the Treasurer which is corroborated by the signature of the Master and turns the written order over to the Treasurer to fulfill.

The compliance function validates that this process was followed by examining the documentation. Supporting documentation such as bank statements are also leveraged to confirm that all bases are covered. This type of function is typically an internal

# Financially Stable

function and can return a verdict of either compliant or non-compliant. A Certified Public Accountant (CPA), however, can provide an actual opinion on adherence to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) that range from "unqualified" (best) to "adverse" (worst). Larger organizations utilize both types of reviews to ensure that proper practices are in place.

Organizational leaders hold accountability for ensuring that the financial process operates successfully. Great leaders provide a **vision** that outlines the direction of the organization and **missions** to ensure that the vision is achieved. There are many organizations that have focused on long-term viability and the cornerstone for achieving this goal is financial management. At the very least, they drive to ensure that there is not a budget deficit. However, at the very best, they drive for a budget surplus. It is the surplus that creates additional opportunities for perpetuity that can open more doors in the future.

A budget surplus generally means that the organization realized a net gain. The net gain is typically utilized to build financial reserves. The accumulation of reserves helps to produce a cushion that can allow organizations to absorb the impacts of most unforeseen circumstances. This is a key component of financial stability.

Reserves can also be invested to further improve the financial state of the organization. There are always risks to investments. However, regular monitoring and management by qualified individuals will help to mitigate the risks. In many cases, all of these financial resources can also be re-

allocated, although with restrictions in some cases, to fill gaps that may occur from adverse events. All in all smart investments under stellar management can help to provide further insulation from internal and external challenges placed on an economy.

The primary sources of income for the United Supreme Council are **dues** and **fundraisers**. Dues are per capita based donations that are typically designated to cover operational costs. Fundraisers are typically supplemental as they help to build reserves and fill any gaps that may occur from unforeseen events. For example:

- The **Walk of Fame** initiative (below) provides an opportunity for all to leave a physical legacy at the Holy See while generating additional income for the Rite;



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**Lifetime Membership Cost: \$2,500**

**Lifetime Membership Participation Requirements**

Must be a 33° Mason in good standing

Must be in good standing in your Consistory

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The United Supreme Council  
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The United Supreme Council  
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**DISCLAIMER**

Lifetime membership does not exempt a member from paying their Consistory dues, registration for USC Annual Session, registration for the CDJ, or your Blue House dues. Additionally, it does not cover reclassification fees associated with a change in rank within the USC and does not protect a member from suspension or expulsion due to behavior unbecoming a Mason. Not adhering to the rules of the fraternity will cause lifetime membership privileges to be revoked without refund. Upon reinstatement to regular membership status, lifetime membership benefits will resume upon confirmation of status.

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- ◆ Commemorative item purchases like the **USC Shirts** provides members with the opportunity to coordinate during non-business sessions, showcase the organization to the public and remember past leaders while generating income;



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- ◆ **Planned Giving**, such as matching donations through one's company or financial donations from one's estate after his work has been done, can offer a great contribution to the Rite while extending the legacy of individual benevolence.



Financial resources allow for programs that benefit the community to continue and can open doors for new programs and grants. These types of actions and opportunities cannot be presented if the Rite is not financially right. Therefore, a strong focus on the mission of **FINANCIAL STABILITY** is critical.

As the Northern Jurisdiction moves onward towards its future state, it is of the utmost importance that the membership has a full understanding of the direction of this particular mission. This is one in which everyone can play a role through individual and collective donations as well as presenting additional opportunities for the generation of income. Contribute today so that the Rite will remain Financially Stable for tomorrow.

**Our Financial FUTURE is in OUR hands!**

# United Supreme Council Benevolent Fund

2019

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Jerry L. Averiette  
Stephen P. Blackwell Sr.  
Gaylen L. Blackwell Sr.  
Douglas Brownlee  
Fred Conway Jr.  
Richard Clay Dixon  
Edward Downs Sr.  
Robert M. Estelle  
George E. Forest  
Michael L. Freeman  
Willie J. Fulton Jr.  
Jessie O. Gooding  
George L. Goolsby  
Richard E. Gordon Jr.  
Thomas G. Graham  
Charles Holmes  
Raymond Hummons Sr.  
Arln Jackson  
Jimmie E. Johnson

Macedon R. Johnson  
Delandus P. Montgomery  
Ronald A. Ogletree  
James R. Payne  
Rudolph Pringle  
Russell Reese  
Thomas H. Savage  
Darryl R. Smith  
Benj. EK Speare-Hardy II  
Willie A. Terrell Jr.  
Villani J. Thomas  
Willie Van Thompson Jr.  
Joseph E. Toliver Jr.  
Gerald L. Townes  
Charles V. Williams III  
Harry H. Wise Jr.

## **JOSHUA D. KELLEY #27**

Henry D. Atkinson  
Thomas H. Barton  
Robert G. Burns  
Johnny L. Cummings  
Lycurgus C. Curry Jr.  
Glenn W. Dee  
Howard Freeman  
Leo Hollingsworth  
Doysa L. Whitaker

## **WESTERN #28**

Walter T. Anderson  
Daryl L. Andrews  
Kenny Askew  
David Bonds  
Melvin Brooks Jr.  
Cordale Brown  
R.C. Brown Jr.  
Charles Burns Jr.  
Gene Chandler  
Marshall Coe  
Charles A. Cooper Sr.  
John R. Dillard  
DePlessie Drew  
Millard V. Driskell  
Willie B. Evans Sr.  
Frank E. Gillie Jr.  
Warren D. Gipson Sr.  
Bill Harlan  
Michael G. Harper  
Troy L. Harris  
William W. Jackson  
Milton Jackson  
Ronnie L. Johnson  
Major Lacy Jr.  
Willie Lawler Jr.  
Milton LeShore  
Fred Luckett  
Gilbert S. Marchman  
George McCrowey  
James A. Mitchell  
William L. Norman  
Michael Owens  
Oscar W. Pickett  
Jerald L. Prince  
William F. Redmond  
Walter Reed Jr.  
John L. Richardson  
Joseph Ryan  
Denton D. Smith  
Tony D. Stafford Sr.  
Charles J. Stewart  
Bernard Teat  
George W. Tynes  
Raymond Watkins  
Robert E. Weems Sr.  
Fred Williams Jr.  
Ernest Willis  
Ray E. Willis  
Leo L. Wimberley Jr.



# Council Benevolent Fund for 2019-2020



**BISON #29**  
Charles H. Allen Jr.  
George K. Arthur  
Charles F. Burt  
Joe H. Burton  
Albert S. Hall  
John R. Hill Jr.  
Henderson Hutchins Jr.  
Kevin D. Ireland  
Delmar Morris  
Jerrell G. Moss  
William G. Nelson  
Robert T. Russell Jr.

**MOUNTAIN & PLAINS #33**  
Jesse M. Buckmon  
Elvin R. Caldwell Jr.  
Roscoe Crawford Jr.  
George Goree Jr.  
Jarkovey M. Jordan  
Keith L. Weston

**MALTA #34**  
Michael C. Cosby  
Daniel Payne Jr.  
Jeffrey N. Peele  
Jack D. White

**SARDONIAS #41**  
Herbert Allen  
Robert L. Bolling  
Clifton J. Hardy  
Henry Grady James III  
Bryan H. Morris  
Bryan D. Morris  
Edward Perrin Jr.  
Joseph Smith  
Tennyson Williams  
Garrett L. Winn

**PENINSULAR #44**  
Willie J. Campbell  
John W. Hearn  
Roy J. Mays  
Jimmy F. Moore  
Herschel James Roper  
Athalious M. Tinsley Sr.  
Byron C. Williams

**UTICA #45**  
Milton Boddie  
Jimmie Chaple  
John H. Davis  
George E. DeWitt Sr.  
Russell E. Duckett  
Grady Edge  
Frederick M. Garner  
Willis A. Knighton  
Abraham A. Lee  
Albert Marshall  
Lawrence Peoples  
Cheyenne Talbert  
Gregory S. Thomas  
James S. Williams Jr.  
Major Wilson Jr.

**W. F. POWELL #46**  
Jameel A. Hameed  
Lynn Lewis Jr.  
Owen T. Sloan

**OPHIR #48**  
James G. Allen  
Eubert G. Brown  
Louis J. Butler  
Ernest W. Chester Sr.  
Ronald A. Clark  
Arthur R. Crawford  
Frank H. Galloway III  
Larry R. Gunnell Sr.  
Horace Jordan  
Homer O. Justice

Vander H. McFarland Sr.  
Walter A. Smith  
Walter D. Staton Jr.  
Wilbur G. Stewart  
Timothy Thomas  
John R. Turner  
Charles F. Williams

**MENELIK #49**  
Aubrey K. Barlow  
Charles H. Cook  
Theodore F. Curtis  
Carlus Dee Gully  
George A. Reid

**J. W. GORDON #50**  
Samuel L. Ballinger  
Isiah Cherry  
Kimberly Folks  
James R. Greene  
Oliver H. Jones  
Alexander Perry Jr.  
Emerson L. Terry

**HIRAM #51**  
LaRue J. Love Sr.  
**ST. JOHNS #54**  
Larry D. Burns  
Elmo Pace  
Carlos A. Sanders Sr.

**MARION #60**  
Jetson Alexander  
David L. Allen Sr.

**LONG ISLAND #61**  
Mark A. Alexander  
Gene Allen  
William N. Carmen  
Alfred B. Curtis Jr.  
David F. Hancock  
Joe L. Hibbler

**MAGIC CITY #62**  
Darrel J. Anderson  
Nathaniel Brewer  
George W. Clark  
Jerome Fellows  
Percy B. Hunt Jr.  
Alexander Jacque  
Theodore K. Millard Sr.  
Joe L. Patrick  
Walter S. Patterson  
Joseph Rodgers Jr.  
Tony Walker

**DANNY L. ALLEN #64**  
Danny L. Allen  
Walter C. Brandon Jr.  
Melvin Frierson  
Paul W. Harris II  
J.R. James Jr.  
Delbert B. Marion  
Charles E. McDonald Sr.  
Willie B. Nelson

**TYREE #64**  
Danny L. Allen  
Walter C. Brandon Jr.  
Melvin Frierson  
Paul W. Harris II  
J.R. James Jr.  
Delbert B. Marion  
Charles E. McDonald Sr.  
Willie B. Nelson

Walter E. Smith  
Steven E. Sumler  
James R. Thompson  
**C. E. GORDON #65**

Edward M. Brooks  
Harry L. Cottman Sr.  
Blounzer E. Graham  
Colin L. Mitchell  
Preston B. Pierce  
Roosevelt Rivers  
Wayne O. Tompkins

**PRINCE HALL #67**  
Darwyn B. Anderson  
Jesse Dailey  
Wendell O. Hutchings  
David Louis  
Normancharles Taylor II

**A.G. CLARK #68**  
Osumana V. Cassell Sr.  
Willie C. Dixon  
Richard L. Payne Sr.

**IONIC #70**  
Louis C. Colbert  
Winfred Colbert  
Ernest Fulford  
Elijah J. Handy Sr.

**KENNETH E. HARRIS JR. #71**  
Kenneth E. Harris Jr.  
Houston Hooker Jr.  
Warner L. Jackson Jr.  
Jerome O.L.S. King  
Minor King Jr.

**LEARNTHUR LEE #72**  
Learthur Lee  
James E. Martin  
Marville L. Martin  
Louis D. Simmons  
Earl M. Thomas III  
McArthur Weddle

**SAGINAW VALLEY #71**  
Thomas R. Gillespie  
Michael H. Jordan  
George Logan Jr.  
Bruce L. McKinney  
Robert J. Meekins  
Lawrence E. Moon  
O.T. Perry  
Frederick P. Raspberry  
Woodrow Stanley  
Earl W. Stephens

**NORTHERN LIGHTS #72**  
Robert E. Davis  
Lester Facine  
Clifford Hastings  
Ruben L. Jackson Jr.  
Edward J. Mason  
Joe M. Nieves  
Fred E. Simmons

**JAMES E. MORLEY #73**  
Kenneth E.G. Davies  
Ashward G. Ferguson  
Everette Z. Mackey  
Robert D.L. Sands

**BEAVER #74**  
Reginald R. Brothers  
Sheridan C. Butterfield  
Tyrone R. Edwards  
Jeffrey E. Foster  
Glaister W.K. Graham  
Charles B. Phills

**CASCADIAN #75**  
David Archibald  
Gary W. Bell  
Roosevelt D. Butler  
Charles M. Curtis  
Joseph E. Green Jr.

Melvin Jenkins  
Tyrone Johnson  
Bernard A. Love Sr.  
Clarence E. Matthews  
Jesse T. Ogburn  
Charles E. Parker  
Charles B. Thomas Jr.  
Carlton B. Tucker  
Leroy J. Williams  
Robert L. Williams  
Gentry F. Worth

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE #76**  
Draymond Crawford  
Howard Shelf

**INLAND #78**  
Ronald B. Carpenter  
Fred Edward Jr.

**HARTFORD #80**  
Cecil W. Alston  
Charles R. Barfield  
Charles H. Hills Sr.  
John C. Honor Jr.  
Alvan N. Johnson Jr.  
Lewis A. Rawles  
William R. Smith

**PIKES PEAK #81**  
Vincent Anderson  
Frederick D. Blue  
Jeffrey S. Bryant  
Calvin Butler  
Arturo V. De Los Reyes  
Jesse Disnute Jr.

**LEO C. NEWTON #83**  
Van L. Harvey  
Terence Jackson  
William Jackson  
Lonnie Richardson  
James H. Sauls  
Loran Smith  
Aaron C. Smith  
Berhane M. Tadesse  
Charles Tate  
Shadrach Thomas  
Robert Webb Jr.  
Otis C. Williams  
Leroy K. Wright

**ERIC BAILLOU #84**  
Eric Baillou  
T.V. Brown  
Jimmie D. Foster  
Ovet L. Hughes  
Walter R. Knight  
Ralph A. Sirmons Sr.  
Thomas D. Steele  
Augustine S. Tatus

**KEYSTONE #85**  
Victor S. Baxter Sr.  
Charles H. Bush Jr.  
Samuel A. Cheatham  
Daryl J. Collins  
Robert L. Deloney  
Tommy L. Denton Jr.  
Glen L. Downes  
Charlie L. Flowers  
Hesham R. Harris  
Greg E. Jamison  
Stuart A. Lee II  
Bill Lowery  
Jerry Mayers  
Calvin L. Nixon Sr.  
Daniel R. Poole  
Shawn Rollins  
Anthony Shealer  
George L. Steward  
Charles E. Thompson  
Ervin M.C. White

**CLARENCE E. MATTHEWS #86**  
Clarence E. Matthews  
Jesse T. Ogburn  
Charles E. Parker  
Charles B. Thomas Jr.  
Carlton B. Tucker  
Leroy J. Williams  
Robert L. Williams  
Gentry F. Worth

**W. M. YOUNG JR. #88**  
James H. Brewster  
Vernon D. Dobbs  
Namon McWilliams

**SPRINGFIELD #89**  
Robert C. Jackson  
Mario B. Taylor

**ALBANY #90**  
El-Wise Noisette  
William Suggs  
Dorsey M. Whitehead

**NORTH SHORE #91**  
Samuel B. Gaines  
Timothy D. Gause

**BALTHASAR #92**  
George M. Barmore Sr.  
William H. Bernel

**G.O. CARRINGTON #93**  
Alphonso K. Miller Sr.

**BEN LOMOND #94**  
Charles Jefferson

**ROBERT HENRY #95**  
Delvin L. Hodges

**MOUNT ROYAL #97**  
Rudolph C. Gordon  
Ernest Martin

**PENTECOST #98**  
Earlie Albright  
William Austin Sr.  
James Carter  
General Cherry  
James N. Fuller  
William J. Garrett  
Leonard W. LaRue  
Percy McPherson  
Johnnie L. Sanders  
Ronald L. Smalls

**SPAIN MILITARY #99**  
Alexander J. Hernandez  
Marques A. Jones  
Lever Lane

**G. M. SOLOMONS #101**  
Devin D. Carter  
Wilbert L. Clyburn

**TOP OF THE WORLD #102**  
Marcus L. Daniels

**JOSEPH I. STATON #103**  
Larry Brownlee  
Guy R. Fisher Sr.  
Ronald U. Muse

**MARQUETTE-JOLIET #104**  
Neal Carson  
Sherwood Edwards  
Andrew M. Griffin III  
Anthony Griffin Sr.  
Marion Matlock  
Stanley McCallum  
Walter L. Nichols  
William J. Robinson  
Reinaldo Walker  
Clarence Williams Jr.

**M. L. KING JR. #86**  
Brian I. Austin  
Mark C. Burford  
Elmer M. Evans  
Robert B. Groce  
Gerald Hunley Sr.  
Steven Lawrence  
Warren Montague  
Gary M. Montgomery  
John H. Taylor  
Steven O. Wells

**CAPITAL CITY #106**  
Lester L. Dickson  
Nicholas Gordon  
Henry C. Sheegog  
Clarence Williams  
Gregory D. Wraggs

**N. W. THATCHER #107**  
Lonnie L. Crockett  
Joe Mario Davis  
Darryl C. White  
Napoleon Wormly Jr.

**E. W. BARREL #109**  
Charles Alleyne

**J. LIPSCOMB #110**  
Willie L.L. Coffield  
Benjamin V. Glenn Jr.  
Harry Jernigan

**JOHN J. STORY #111**  
Kenneth E. Alston Jr.  
David E. Bennett  
Steven M. Harding  
Fintan Heward  
Miles G. Hicks  
Michael S. Preaster

**HOMER E. GAINES #112**  
Tony O. Dennis  
John L. Robinson  
W. James Stone  
Jimmie L. Taylor Sr.

**EUREKA #113**  
Anthony Acosta  
Kevin L. Bryant  
Michael D. Johnson  
Dennis R. Randall  
Alberto R. Sanabria  
Richard Vega  
Carl Williams

**J.C. LOGAN #114**  
Rinza C. Burton Jr.  
Sidney R. Thomas Jr.

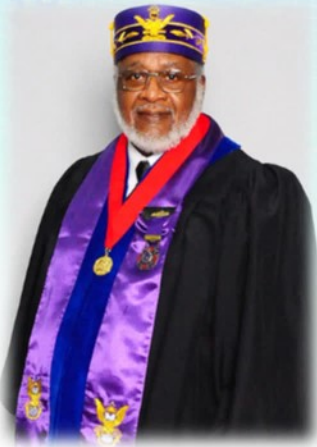
**ARARAT #115**  
Michael D. Rabb  
Robert L. Revels Sr.

**B. T. ALEXANDER #117**  
Kevin T. Daniels Sr.  
Robert G. Janey  
James Lavender  
Howard L. Martin  
Ryan Waller

**EVERETT #118**  
Thomas V. Bowers  
Glenn Ford  
Harris R. Smith

**C. D. HOUSTON JR. #119**  
George T. Bennett  
Ernst Boromee  
Willie G. Brown  
James Gladney Sr.  
Raymond Guy Sr.  
Carl Ray  
Garry Tyler  
Lewis F. Williams





## Alaska

**Sovereign Grand  
Inspector General  
Clifford Hastings, 33<sup>rd</sup>  
Deputy**

The Alaska Council of Deliberation (ACOD) has worked to move forward despite the impacts of COVID-19. This year has been a challenge for the

Orient of Alaska. As we go thru COVID-19 and try to keep our Fraters and their families safe, we continue to do our work in the Community in which we live.

The 2019 ACOD Awards Banquet was a success as it honored most deserving recipients and raised funds to support benevolent for 2020.



The Orient is pleased to acknowledge Anthony April. April is a Captain for the Alaska State Police who was recognized by the Alaska State Legislature at its 31st Legislative Session for his service. By a resolution entered by Rep. Spohnholz, Rep. LeDoux and Senator Wielechoski, April's service in the armed forces and the

state police were a credit to the Alaska community. He is now the Commander with the Alaska Bureau of Investigation and the Parliamentarian of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.

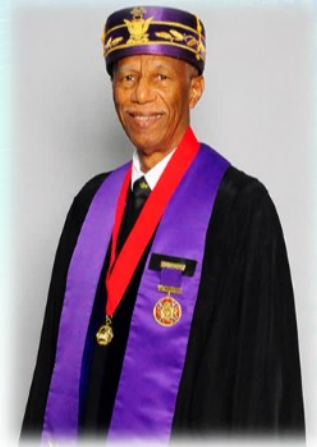
"Leaders Lead" and that is what we as the Alaska Council of Deliberations will continue accomplish.



## Bahamas

**Sovereign Grand  
Inspector General  
Roscoe A.L. Davies, 33<sup>rd</sup>  
Deputy**

The fraters of the Orient of the Bahamas have experienced the horrors of a "killer" Hurricane and the continuing COVID-19 Pandemic since September



2019. Fraters on the northern islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama were faced with the most powerful hurricane ever experienced in the history of the Bahama Islands during the first week of September last year. Hurricane Dorian, with wind gusts up to 200 miles per hour and sea surges of over 25 feet, stalled and sat over the islands for a least 48 hours. Many lives were lost, and many persons are still missing. Communities were washed away, and the sea surge resulted in serious structural damages to buildings, furniture, appliances and vehicles.

Our Scottish Rite families suffered a variety of damages. Five homes were lost, at least eighteen homes had serious roof and internal structural damages, and others experienced furniture and appliances losses. Many vehicles were lost or damaged from the flood waters. However, we are pleased to report that brotherly love and relief was received from our fraters from around the Orients and the Sovereign Grand Commander and Executives of the United Supreme Council, AASR, PHA, NJ, USA, Inc. A donation of \$27,000.00 has helped at least 36 fraters' households that suffered serious damages. Assistance was also provided for repairs to our Masonic Temple. Additional hurricane relief is anticipated from the USC Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

We take this opportunity to say a heartfelt Thank You to all the members and friends who responded to the Hurricane Dorian Relief Fund. The COVID-19 Pandemic has had the usual adverse effects on the health, social and economic life our Scottish Rite family. Our medical staff and facilities are challenged, jobs have been lost and social interaction is severely restricted. However, contact with the membership is maintained and support is provided as requested or identified.

Our Annual Council of Deliberation will be held via a Zoom Meeting during October.



## Connecticut

*Sovereign Grand  
Inspector General  
Edward E. Cherry Sr., 33<sup>rd</sup>  
Deputy*

The COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath brought together the members of the Scottish Rite and the Lodges in the Valley of New Haven in several ways to provide major community

services. With social distancing keeping them at a safe arms-length, members of New Haven Consistory #7, Oriental Lodge #6 and Widow Son's Lodge #1 stepped forward to aid those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in various ways that never crossed our minds.

On June 8, 2020 the members of New Haven Consistory answered the need of the homeless population in New Haven during the CV-19 crisis through its donations to the Pop-up Drop-in Shelter. The Shelter, sponsored by the United Way of Greater New Haven, Cornell Hill Health Center, the Columbus House and the Connecticut Mental Health Center, opened up to male and female residents who, during this emergency, had no place to live, offering them a hot meal, shower, change of clothes, and basic toiletry items we too often take for granted. Through their generosity of the members of New Haven donated body wipes, socks, feminine hygiene products shampoo/conditioner lotions, shavers, undergarments, toothpaste/tooth brushes and deodorants. Mr. Dan Isaac, the Director of the shelter, was most pleased and surprised at the number of items that the Consistory was able to donate. He shared that more than 100 visitors would benefit from this timely act of charity. Deputy Edward Cherry gave a special thank-you to Illustrious Commander-in-Chief Alex Miller, the Co-Chairs Ill. Garland Patton, Sublime Prince Tyrone Oliver, SGIG Harold Grey, Ill. Robert M. Jones, Ronald Thomas, James Gatling and Sublime Princes Corbin Pressley, Winston Ware, Arnold Feaster, Josephus Ballenger, Patrick Giddings, Gerald Mallison, Zephaniah Ben Elohim and to the members who provided financial aid to meet this call.



The second major community service event occurred on the grounds of the Prince Hall Masonic Temple in New Haven where space was provided to the New Haven Chapter of the NAACP to hold voter information sessions including registration and absentee voting for one of the most important elections of our lifetime. The Cornell Scott Community Health Center also hosted a COVID-19 testing service which was well attended. On-site support was provided by members of Oriental Lodge #6, the primary Host, and members from Widow Son's Lodge and New Haven Consistory.



The third community service enacted by New Haven Consistory was the provision of evening dinners for the third shift emergency room staff at the Yale New Haven Hospital who were struggling with the severe health emergency services along with the humanitarian crisis caused by the pandemic. The dinners were most appreciated by staff. Some, in showing their appreciation, took a few minutes of their valuable time to pose with Consistory member supporters.

The members of the Orient of Connecticut are most vigilant in observing the basic right to vote, encouraging and advising others to take advantage of the right many have fought and died for; especially now that our future depends upon it; and, to observe the common sense guidelines to guard against the Coronavirus in a safe way by approved distancing, the proper wearing of facemasks and getting tested by proper agencies to protect yourself, your families and others against this pandemic—COVID-19 virus—which has, at this writing, caused the death of over 200,000 Americans.



## Delaware

**Sovereign Grand  
Inspector General  
James A. Scott, 33<sup>o</sup>  
Deputy**

It has been nothing but continued support from the Consistories and Assemblies in the Orient of Delaware. The leadership has been non-stop, all though there were

stumbling blocks because of the COVID-19. There have been fundraisers and other efforts to obtain items needed to support our communities. The organizations have been holding their scheduled meetings virtually. The Delaware Council of Deliberation is scheduled for October 16 and 17, 2020. We pray for a successful Council. As we continue our work, our organization's accomplishments in support of our membership and community speak for themselves.

**CORINTHIAN CONSISTORY #5** has done a masterful job this year. Illustrious Commander-in-Chief John Brown (pictured) and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Larry Marin have been exceptional leaders. Corinthian raised funds to support the new SGIG James A. Scott Scholarship Fund and other charitable endeavors. The first scholarship is being presented at the Council of Deliberation this year. The leadership thought outside of the box and started a virtual stay at home 50/50 raffle. It was very successful with the assistance of GIG George Winston, 33<sup>o</sup>.



**ORIENT OF DELAWARE BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION:** In November of 2019, the Orient of Delaware Benevolent Foundation, Inc. (OODBF) was incorporated as a 501c3 corporation. If your organization has ever partaken in incorporation, this is a tireless task with follow-up needed with the State you are incorporating in and the Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service. This task was accomplished by ICIC John B. Brown and Mr. James A. Scott (SGIG) of Corinthian Consistory. Directors and Corporate Officers were elected, letter head designed, bank account opened, and corporate seal obtained. Kudos to Board President Brown for his relentless effort to accomplish these tasks. Scott is the Chairman of the Board of Directors. After the incorporation, the next step was to start raising funds. Our database is composed of the Fraters and Loyal Ladies of the Orient and members of the community. In May of 2020, the OODBF decided to have its first fundraiser. Due to the Pandemic, our event had to be one which was safe for all. The theme was "a stay-at-home-cookout". The raffle tickets were \$25 each; with \$20 going to OODBF and \$5 per ticket to the raffle winner. The drawing was held via Zoom on July 10<sup>th</sup>. The winner was

GIG David Anderson. He is an exceptional member who travels the globe but stays on top of Scottish-Rite activities. The Mission of OODBF is to provide charitable distributions to other charitable, religious, educational, and scientific organizations that qualify as exempt organizations and other charitable organizations. The OODBF has also become a member of **Guide Star**, an international database for non-profit organizations and is listed on Amazon.

**COURTNEY P. HOUSTON CONSISTORY #119:** Illustrious Commander in Chief John Henderson, 32<sup>o</sup> did an exceptional job this year. His team, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Dr. GIG Johnnie Burton, 2nd LT. SP Maurice Mobley, 32<sup>o</sup>, Secretary GIG Jeffery Chandler, 33<sup>o</sup> and Treasurer SP John Willis, 32<sup>o</sup> with the continued leadership of the Overseer of the Valley of Dover, GIG Wilbur Justice, 33<sup>o</sup>. CP Houston reinstated 3 Fraters under the Deputy's Amnesty program. The Gateway Adult Rehabilitation program in Smyrna was supported and the Consistory established its scholarship program and will award its first scholarship at DCOD in October.

### THE DELAWARE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN CIRCLE STEPS-UP CHARITY EFFORTS DURING THE PANDEMIC

**Assembly No. 43:** On December 3, 2019 Loyal Lady Janice Truitt was elected as the Loyal Lady Ruler and immediately initiated the action that "charity begins within us". The Loyal Ladies have been diligently implementing their chartered mission of charity work. This year (2019-20) the Assembly collected handbags, filled them with essential toiletries and delivered them to Sojourner Place Shelter for homeless and battered women in Wilmington. The Truitt Farm donated approximately eighty pounds of organic vegetables to the Food Bank on behalf of the Assembly at the United Methodist Church in Hartly. The Assembly made a contribution earmarked for surgical procedures to "Mercy Ships" which are floating medical/surgical centers that travel to Africa and other developing nations to render reconstructive surgery for persons with crucial birth defects and debilitating physical issues. Gift cards were sent to sick, shut-in and elderly members. One recipient was our beloved PSGLLR and charter Assembly member, Courtney W. Stevenson (106). She's the oldest living member of our Order in the Orient of Delaware. Our Assembly saw the need of a young child of a single mother who could not start school because he did not have clothes nor school supplies. The Loyal Ladies immediately met the need and provided him with clothes, shoes, lunch box, books, pencils and crayons, etc. This enabled him to start school. The heart felt compassion of the Loyal Ladies flowed to our incarcerated women at the Delores Baylor Prison for Women in New Castle. There, we provided the prison with a case of toiletries for the women. We collected blankets for the homeless persons who slept out near the train station in Wilmington. With the onset of the COVID 19 Pandemic, several Loyal Ladies had family members to transition. Love baskets of organic vegetables, fresh baked bread, homemade Pasta sauce and watermelons were

donated to those families by Loyal Lady Ruler Janice Truitt. To further exemplify the charitable work of the Loyal Ladies, they have taken individual actions in our community at large. Loyal Lady AR Wilson assists seniors with transport, bill writing and other routine services. Loyal Lady McNair provided face masks to families and made a donation to Israel Fund. PSGLLR Fitzgerald donates meals and service to children. PLLR Redding delivered food to families that also needed clothes. PSGLLR Herring provided meals and transportation to therapy for her sister-in-law. We are a proud group and intend to continue to serve.

**DOVER ASSEMBLY #96** has been very busy in executing Charity Projects this year. Loyal Lady Ruler Sandria Johnson was elected for the current year. The Charity Committee and members are proud to list projects launched and completed:

- Cold Purple
- Donation to "God's Way"
- Home of the Brave Men and Women Shelter
- Domestic Women's Shelter
- Adopted Families
- Thanksgiving & Christmas
- Sheppard's Place
- Hopes and Dreams
- Soles for Souls

Dover Assembly adopted **The Academy of Dover Charter School**, an elementary school which serves approximately 310 students with a student to teacher ratio of 14:1. Loyal Lady Eutha Robinson (Lee) collected



supplies to be turn in for the school. Loyal Lady Gina Cloud adopted an outdoor food pantry for the homeless! **It's a Blessing Box** sponsored by Christ Church of Dover. She stocks the pantry box with water, can goods, utensils and other non-perishable items. Loyal Lady Marguerite Dones

also made a large donation of items. Loyal Lady Ronah Marshall (right) was selected by the Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children as A Child Care HERO. Her day care "Just Kidz Learning Academy" which she owns and operates was opened and provided Emergency Care during COVID-19 for Essential Workers. Loyal Lady Thomaszene Graham decided to make and deliver dinners to the senior members and their spouses and Second District OES Chapters. Meal was Fired Chicken, Green Beans, Mac-n-Cheese and Desert. PLLR Doris Palmer and LL Gina Cloud helped with the delivery of over 20 dinners. LLAR Carla Outen, purchased food for 5 Families in New York for the month of April, May and part of June. She also purchased Laptop Computers, Tablets and Printers for the less fortunate children to do school work at home.



In March, Loyal Lady Elaine Forbes collected 70 pairs of reading glasses and old eye glasses for the AME Zion Missionary Department to be distributed to church members in Africa. **Monies Spent: \$50 - Monetary Value: \$250.**

In April, 160 Toiletry Bags for the Homeless were collected for the AME Zion Missionary Department to distribute from 8 churches in Delaware and Maryland. **Monies Spent: \$150 - Monetary Value: \$320 - People served: 160.**

In May, 20 Toiletry Bags for the Homeless were collected for Fez Court No. 211 to distribute in Dover. **Monies Spent: \$10 - Monetary Value: \$40 - People to be served: 20.**

In June, Voter Registration drives took place over 4 Days. **Total Hours: 12 Hours - Registered Voters: 2.**

In July, bras were donated to Shepherd's Place. **Monetary Value: \$240 - People served: 5.** Clothing was also donated to Salvation Army - **Monetary Value: \$60.**

Due to COVID-19, visitation restrictions prevented us from visiting the nursing home to celebrate with PSGLLR Courtney Stevenson for her 106 Birthday. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, we convened for a birthday celebration on The Green near Legislative Hall Dover DE. Mayor Robin Christiansen presented a certificate for PSGLLR Stevenson's birthday. Her nephew Seaton White II accepted it, with a signed birthday card; she received more than 106 cards. Our members are awesome in participating in planned activities as well as doing their own personal outreach.

#### WIFE OF THE DEPUTY OF DELAWARE CONTRIBUTES TO A LOCAL SHRINE COURT CHARITY

In October 2019, MISR Court #193, Daughters participated with "Handbags of Hope Across America" which is sponsored by Sisters4Sisters.org. Sisters4Sisters mission is dedicated to the empowerment of women and girls in mind, body and spirit through educational personal and professional workshops and engaging community outreach in the areas of HIV-AIDS, Domestic Violence, Women's Health and Girls Mentoring. The mission of the "Handbags of Hope Across America" is to collect and distribute handbags to women escaping domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. Often times, women flee with nothing. A handbag filled with toiletries gives them some self-confidence and puts a smile on their faces. Therefore, MISR Court No. 193 along with other participants donated gently used purses, filled with toiletries, to a domestic shelter



in Northern Virginia. One participant in particular deserves a HUGE THANK YOU towards this mission is Mrs. Scott who donated over 25 handbags to this cause. This helped MISR Court #193 to donate over 75 handbags which was the goal. With her time, effort and donation, this contributed to Sisters4sisters collecting over 500 handbags which were ultimately distributed to shelters, women in transition and outreach projects. Thank you Mrs. Scott!!

*Article by Past Commandress, Mrs. Sheri Walker, MISR Court # 193*

## Europe

**Sovereign Grand  
Inspector General  
Enrique John, 33°  
Deputy**



Our Deputy and staff are working hard as our great orient is preparing for our 27th Annual Council of Deliberation Session on September 19th. As our registration forms, souvenir journal contracts, Consistory meetings going on as we speak, we take a step back and look around our orient today. Our consistories are hard at work in their communities working within the guidelines of being safe during this pandemic—working together and helping when called upon in our communities.

It truly is amazing to see that during a time of crisis we are all pulling together as one team and trying our best to assist our communities. There are some days where it is hard or a frater is in need and we are there for them and their family when called upon. Some ways his orient has been keeping in touch with fraters around the globe is via zoom, and what's app, and social media chat rooms. By using these forms of communications fraters in the US are happy and feel a part of their consistory. A new era is here in this orient and the future looks bright. We will get passed these trying times together but we have to be safe and be there for each other when needed.



the community with food and masks during the pandemic. This Consistory is moving and growing in membership because the community sees the hard work put into their service. It is bringing in good men in the Scottish Rite.

Booker T. Alexander Consistory #117 Lead by Ill. Commander-In-Chief SP Reiss J. Byrd, 32° is growing with one new member SP Winston Gautreaux, 32°,

The Orient of Europe is moving forward and growing as we speak. Karamursel Consistory #96 under the leadership of Ill. Commander-In-Chief SP Emanuel Ganayo, 32° served

and three more on the way in the next initiation. This is due to the community work done before and during the pandemic to assist our soldiers and their families. Booker T. Alexander sponsored two school children from the teen center in Grafenwöhr with supplies via a request made from the teens' parents since their recent PCS to Germany from the States.

As we move into a new era, we are making sure future officers are properly trained as we groom inspiring leaders within the consistory to take the reins for the future. Grooming fraters for leadership will take time and we are committed to that no matter how long it takes to rebuild the consistory and make it stronger than before. Before these events and happenings, we want to shout out to Ill. Commander-In-Chief Byrd for winning the "Masonic Library & Museum of Pennsylvania Masonic Temple" Digital artwork contest where his piece "The CIC" was displayed in the exhibition gala at the museum for all to see. We give him a round of applause on a job well done and representing the Orient of Europe in this contest.



Gustave M. Solomons Consistory #101 Lead by Ill. Commander-In-Chief Christopher Morris, 32° has been busy this year despite the pandemic. While serving their community with specific needs, the consistory has hosted two joint degree works with Ararat #115 and Booker T. Alexander #117. Gustave M. Solomons #101 also supports the local Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts by volunteering hours in their activities. Their hard work through the joint initiations has helped consistories in the country to team up, fellowship and work together to bring in new fraters. The joint initiations have brought 5 new members into the fold. Great job to them and may they continue into a new era in our beloved Orient.

Overall, our Orient's administration and consistories are moving forward together. Everyone is committed to our communities and Scottish Rite Masonry. We are the Orient of Europe and we will be there, focused and ready to serve our United Supreme Council, brothers and sisters in uniform and their families.—Submitted by SP Reiss J. Byrd, 32°



# Pursuit of Perfection:

## *A Perspective Application*

*Sublime Prince Haniff Morris, 32<sup>o</sup>, Marquette-Joliet Consistory #104*

The crux of Freemasonry lies within the arduous labor of reflecting upon the symbols, emblems, lectures, history, laws, rites, rituals, etc. therein. As with any valuable revelation, the truths that lead to knowledge, wisdom and understanding will remain veiled without the aspirant's prerequisite preparation and perspective.

However, by the grace of the G.A.O.T.U. and assistance of learned Brethren, the neophyte's habitual pursuit of perfection receives more light via reception, mastery and *application* of the tools placed in his hands. Although one Brother cannot fully travel the path for another, by sharing his insight with those of similar aspirations, rocky terrains can be made smoother and bridges can span chasms.

It is widely accepted humans only utilize 10% of their mental prowess, the remaining 90% of potential still pales in comparison to the infinity of Deity. Students of ancient mystery systems appreciate the intellectual conception of spirit is only a proportional reflection of that individual's capacity and is not the whole of the spirit itself. As a Scottish Rite Mason becomes more familiar with the abstracts of infinite time, space and spirit, the entire fullness thereof remains yet outside of his limited grasp without GOD's intervention to change the conditions of his being and thus increase capacity to receive it. Throughout the Lodge of Perfection, reminders abound that the Creator is so beyond comprehension that even feeble attempts at nomenclature are ineffable.

Moreover, perfection cannot be pursued by intellect alone. By Faith man climbs a winding staircase hoping to arrive at progressively higher elevations/vibrations. Therefore, with attempts to dogmatize spiritual principle within limitations of his understanding, he often begins to segregate a universal infinity and relegates any exterior precept as error. The Lodge of Perfection reminds that however grand one's personal doctrine may seem, it is doubtless not without stain. In fact, a Venerable Brother learns to focus on the unsullied spiritual fabric that binds mankind together instead of the self-manufactured differences that lead to destruction.

Subsequently, as man's image of his Creator is limited to personal comprehensive grasp, that image is false if it is of a lower perception. In dealings with Deity, there ought not to be a capitulation to baser characteristics. Instead, implement a subdued passion and reflect the image of immutable omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence & omnibenevolence. Man is created in the image of GOD and should ever strive to assume such a reflection in deed and in truth.

The Scottish Rite as a whole advances the perspective that GOD is both present *and* active. The infinite algorithms that govern the universe are made by Deity despite man's limited circumstance to digest its scope. However, observed from time to time in the midst are "plumbs" by which we measure ourselves, draw inspiration and take additional steps toward the Light of the Masonic East. The archetypical exemplars of Osiris, Buddha, Muhammad, Yahushua & Hiram Abiff speak to the potential transcendental development of one's soul and intellect. Our duty is to develop purposeful and unique faculties in ourselves and others that the world's condition may improve by our labors. Indeed, we are to take good men and show them a path that could make them better.

In conclusion, the pursuit of perfection's irony lies in despite its noble aspiration, perfection will never be achieved in this life. However, it still encourages to press on to progressively and deliberately diminish intrinsic blemishes via daily perspective applications:

- ◆ *More Light in this life cannot be revealed by intellect alone. A spiritual component is necessary for the fullness thereof to be realized. (Square and Compass)*
- ◆ *It vitally important to recognize, respect and cherish the spiritual commonality in all things. (Brotherhood of Man under Fatherhood of GOD)*
- ◆ *Peace & Blessing can be achieved when one realizes the possibility of doing so as many dwelling spiritual precedents have illustrated.*

**FIAT LUX**

# Illinois

**Sovereign Grand  
Inspector General  
Melvin Frierson, 33°  
Deputy**



In spite of the dreadful COVID-19 pandemic, ICOD is performing at capacity under the leadership of Deputy Melvin Frierson. ICOD continue its humanitarian initiatives by giving to social agencies, participating in food projects, and supporting Consistories, just to name a few.

During this unprecedented time, Valleys in Illinois stepped up and reached out to help others. Western #28, Tyree #64, Marquette-Joliet #104 distributed masks, gloves and hand sanitizer of epic proportion to their senior members and to local communities at large. North Shore #91 reported issuing meals to senior citizen's homes. Balthasar #92 membership physically assist their community organizations in distributing food and other items to families.

Members of Western Consistory #28 and the Commanders-of-the Rite Valley of Chicago (PHA) "teamed" to create what we now call "Project Food Truck". Project Food Truck was established when Chicago was hit hard by COVID-19. The project is funded by donations from the membership and other entities. Project Food Truck is to provide food boxes

to needy families in the Valley of Chicago. According to the "project" organizers, Project Food Truck has the potential to spread across the Orient (PHA).



Campaigns to support healthcare workers and sharing resources, in general, have become more ubiquitous to help fight back the scourge of the virus. Under the leadership of SGIG Neal Carson 33°, Fraters of Marquette-Joliet #104 distributed much needed face masks to points in the Joliet area that

## SYMPHONY OF JOLIET





are most afflicted. Fresenius Kidney Care Joliet Dialysis Center, Symphony of Joliet Skilled Nursing Facility, Northern Illinois Food Bank South Suburban Center Joliet and Cornerstone Social Services all expressed boundless gratitude upon receipt of the PPE contribution.



Members of Tyree Consistory #64 and the Commanders of the Rite of the Valley of East St. Louis provided sustenance for the front-line workers at Touchette Regional Hospital in Centreville and to the Caseyville Nursing Facility as a show of strong support and appreciation for their efforts as health care professionals during this COVID-19 pandemic. The Commanders Of Rite donated one hundred (100)



pizzas to the staff at Touchette. Tyree also donated masks, gloves, donuts, and four wireless keyboards for the staff and the residents. These

same items were donated to Caseyville Nursing Facilities Staff. These donations encouraged the personnel and the residents of both facilities to continue fighting the COVID-19 pandemic locally.



Unity is also pleasant when the focal points of the collaboration rest on the same goals. The goal in today's day and age is the aid those who suffer from the COVID-19 virus and the provide support where it can be provided to prevent the spread of the disease. The most proven method is to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to citizens in need as well as food donations. Menelik and Central Lodge #3 are working in conjunction with the Central Illinois Black Greek Letter Organizations to do just that. Together, they have supplied PPE to thousands in the community and continually work to educate the citizens on the disease. With funding from the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, they are positioned to move forward even further.

**STAY AT HOME**  
SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19  
BECAUSE WE LOVE YOU

WEAR A MASK OUTSIDE,  
PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING &  
WASH YOUR HANDS REGULARLY <sup>100</sup>

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY**

1. Mu Delta Lambda Charitable Foundation
2. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. *Mu Omicron Omega Chapter*
3. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. *Springfield-Decatur Area Alumnae Chapter*
4. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. *Mu Delta Lambda Chapter*
5. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. *Kappa Sigma Zeta Chapter*
6. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. *Epsilon Sigma Sigma Alumni Chapter*
7. Prince Hall Masons *Central Lodge #3*

Funding provided by the  
Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln

ICOD membership continue to make donations to the Orient's Benevolent Fund and Alms Club. The donations in question enables the Council to full fill its goals and initiatives of benevolent giving during these challenging times.

COVID-19 has transformed the way the Illinois Council (PHA) operates. For example, the recent "Sovereign's Quarterly Meeting" was held via zoom. At that meeting, a visit was made by SGC Melvin Bazemore, a historical first. That said, the Illinois Council (PHA)'s 2020 Annual Session will be modified and done "virtually".

Illinois Council of Deliberation (PHA) mourns the loss of 200,000 plus souls taken by COVID-19. A number of our members and friends are among those loss souls in America.

## Michigan

**Sovereign Grand  
Inspector General  
Christopher Buck, 33<sup>o</sup>  
Deputy**



The Michigan Council of Deliberation is expecting to hold a virtual meeting in late October. COVID-19 has restricted meeting activity of all consistories so many of the projects are reported with challenges.

The Fund Raising Committee for MCOD is having a raffle for a basket of cheer of top shelf liquor. The drawing is expected to be held during the upcoming MCOD meeting in October.

The scholarship committee chairman GIG Lee Yancy reported that two scholarships were awarded. **Matai Swain** of Grand Blank Michigan. This is the United Supreme Council Scholarship of \$1,000.00. Matai holds a 3.93 GPA. **Patrice Cornelius** of Henry Ford Academy with a 3.75 GPA. COVID-19 has restricted application activity. The scholarship committee expects to reopen opportunities for submission with a deadline of September 1<sup>st</sup>. They are also looking at previous recipients for additional renewal supports.

Wolverine Consistory and Charity Assembly #38 members' donated a total of \$1,900.00. With the cash donations they were able to purchase food, beverages and snacks for the staff at three locations. The Henry Ford Hospital 5<sup>th</sup> Floor staff in Detroit. The Mission Point Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Detroit and the Detroit Fire Engine Company #59. Total funds spent were \$1,899.97. Thank you for support go out to LL Wendy Ridgell, LL Karen Gleaton, GIG Fred Gleaton and PLLR DeQuanda Carson, LL Earnette Nolan and LL Thelma Brown. All participated in assisting with the distribution of the donations.

Peninsular Consistory #44 supports a Greater Lansing Food Bank with a donation of \$350.00. Members volunteer at this food bank and recognize the names of many of the food recipients receiving help. Peninsular has members in Lansing, Jackson, Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor. As this pandemic continues, more and more families are in need. This donation seems to be the best way to impact the greatest number of people.

Saginaw Valley #71 as indicated by the pictures

submitted made donations to clinic and hospitals in their immediate areas of Saginaw, Flint and Pontiac.

During this COVID-19 experience Michigan Commanders of the Rite from Homer E. Gaines Consistory #112 in Kalamazoo, Michigan donated breakfast and lunch to the first responders at the Kalamazoo Family Health. They provides quality health care to some 36,000 historically underserved patients in Kalamazoo County.

Denise Crawford President and CEO for the Family Health Center stated that her staff was very appreciative of the support and caring the Scottish Rite Masons of Homer E Gaines and appreciate taking the time to think of the FHC during such tumultuous times as these. The silver lining of this pandemic has been the opportunity to witness the kindness and generosity of our community. She was truly amazed and humbled. Also Ms. Crawford indicated that is looking forward to the partnership Homer E Gaines #112 as we address the health needs of our community. Ms. also extended an invitation to participate in the annual Back to School Bash and the Day of Caring.

Homer Gaines #112 also had a donation submitted by the members in Grand Rapids and Muskegon Heights.

Muskegon Heights Fire Department was given \$90.00 and sent a certificate of Thank you for the support of workers on the front line. The Grand Rapids Homer Gaines members also donated \$250.00 and had lunch delivered to 15 essential workers at Samaritas Retired Community. Also lunch was delivered to 25 workers at the Grand Rapids Housing Commission.

These workers insure that low income people keep the paper work flowing for low income housing.



## Nebraska

*Sovereign Grand  
Inspector General*

*Johnny L. Cummings, 33<sup>o</sup>  
Deputy*



The COVID-19 pandemic, although costly in the lives of many across the United Supreme Council, has had its toll on the Orient of Nebraska. Yet, the Orient continues to move forward and stride towards improving the state of affairs for the citizens of the state. In doing so, Joshua David Kelley Consistory #27 stands tall.

Members of Joshua David Kelley Consistory #27 participated in the 3rd Annual Benevolence Golf Tournament. The purpose of the tournament was to raise funds to support students in their efforts to pursue higher education. The tournament was a huge success as it generated enough revenues to provide scholarships to graduating High School Seniors, and those already attending college, in addition to providing opportunities to support various youth programs, and other community based activities.

Further, the Orient will be partnering with the MWPHGL of Nebraska and others to implement voter registrations drives, including education and correct voting processes to ensure that those voting will have their votes counted. The Orient continues to monitor the city, state, and national laws and guidance on the Corona Virus Pandemic, etc., in order to determine the appropriate time to elevate Master Masons in waiting into Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.

Together, "We Conquer", Divided, "We Fall".



## New York

*Sovereign Grand  
Inspector General*

*Grady Edge, 33<sup>o</sup>  
Deputy*



NYSUT (New York State United Teachers) in conjunction with the Grady Edge Reading Program donated backpacks as Lockers to 250 students at Arbor Hill and Giffen Memorial Elementary Schools. Both Elementary Schools are located in low income areas in the City of Albany. Due to social distancing, students are **not allowed** to share supplies. These backpack will be their Lockers in this new reality.

The assortment of school supplies included but not limited to Backpacks, masks, gloves, sanitizer, notebook, pencils, crayons, scissors, glue, highlighter, tissue, magic marker and more were distributed to Kindergarteners through Fifth Grade. This provision eased a tremendous burden from the teachers and parents. As directed by the CDC (Center for Disease Control), guidelines were inserted in each backpack in the form of a note to each student; Social distancing, handwashing and wear a mask.

In addition to school supplies, each student received a reading book from the Grady Edge Reading Program. The Grady Edge Reading Program aims to promote literacy in economically challenged communities by giving books to students. Mr. Grady is concerned about our youngsters during these difficult times. His commitment to our students is relentless in making sure the minds are stimulated and challenged with adequate resource. Ultimately, a continued effort to instill in our students a love for reading during this pandemic.

Superintendent of Albany Schools, Kaweeda Adams was thrilled with the outpouring of supplies for the students. The goal of The Grady Edge Reading Program is to establish and maintain positive relationships with schools in our respective districts and regions. Schools are important community-based institutions, which in combination with The Grady Edge Reading Program, help make sure students have the resources they need.



## Ohio

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



Even though the COVID-19 pandemic swept through the United States with a vengeance, grinding life as we knew it to a halt, the Orient of Ohio still found a way to improvise, adapt and overcome in this new normal. Unfortunately due to COVID-19, our mentoring program was stopped in its tracks. Students were returned home to complete their studies via online platforms. As the future is unpredictable we hope to be able to resume our program this fall, but with COVID-19 not yet under control it does not look likely. On a sad note one of the pioneers of our mentoring program, SGIG Leonard B. Jackson 33°, passed in April. His dedication, innovation, and tutelage will certainly be missed!

GIG C. Keith Melvin 33° was a guest on the Don Juan Fasho radio show. He was recognized as the Pillar of the Community for the month of June. He also spoke on the necessity of doing things *with* your community and not *to* your community—inclusion not interference. SGIG Steve Reese Sr. 33° is the subject of an inspirational documentary entitled “The Steve Reece Sr. Story: From the Bottom Up” produced by his daughter LL Alicia Reese. It documents illustrious Reese’s rise as a self-made man and his successes in the masonic order. This documentary is very enlightening and encouraging and encapsulates the message of “Never Give Up!” The documentary can be viewed on YouTube in its entirety at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLz1qtio5dE>.

On Saturday, October 24, 2020, the Orient of Ohio will be hosting its first virtual Council of Deliberation. As a means of ensuring all participants were comfortable using the Zoom platform, the Deputy held a series of Zoom calls leading up to the Annual Session. Consistories and Valleys were encouraged to use the Zoom (or similar) platform in the 2 months preceding. Also the five Commanders of the Rite meetings were held using Zoom.

**Bezaleel Assembly No. 19**—During this perilous time in our Nation, the Community Outreach Committee of Bezaleel Assembly No. 19, Order of the Golden Circle, Valley of Cleveland, Orient of Ohio, fulfilled their charge of performing impactful community service under the leadership of Loyal Lady Ruler Karen Bryant. Once a month the Pregnant with Possibilities Research Center hosts its Baby Item Give-a-Way. On Monday, July 27, 2020, the Community Outreach Committee contributed to this worthwhile program with donations of baby food, baby wipes, diapers, and formula. This Center was

founded by a young African-American woman, Ms. Vernada Rodgers. The Center’s primary dedicated to assisting young women with successful transitions into motherhood and women’s empowerment. Bezaleel Assembly No. 19 feels blessed to be able to support this Center and contribute to their vision.—LL Joan Hampton



One of Loyal Lady Ruler Karen Bryant’s charities of choice is Stewart Caring Place: Cancer Wellness Center. Their mission is to provide a caring, relaxed environment, offering supportive services and programs at no cost for individuals battling cancer and their families. A plea for assistance was received and accepted by Bezaleel Assembly. On Thursday, July 9, 2020, basic essential needs of canned goods, Kleenex, paper towels, and toilet paper were donated for the Center with the Loyal Lady Ruler so graciously allowing use of her home as a drop off point. Considering the new normal to which we have become accustomed, social distancing guidelines were in effect. Our collective donation was presented the next day, Friday, July 10, 2020. They were very appreciative and truly humbled by the outpouring of support especially during this ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The extremely sweltering heat combined with work commitments prevented many Loyal Ladies from participating in the donation presentation. However, a big “THANK YOU!” is reserved for all those who donated items or provided a monetary contribution to assist us in fulfilling this need. Loyal Lady Ruler Karen Bryant and Past Loyal Lady Ruler Leatrice Sellers leading from the front. Bezaleel Assembly No. 19 appreciates the opportunity to serve.

### **Loyal Lady Violet Clark Turns 100!**

It is not every day that we enjoy the privilege knowing someone that has attained the ripe old age of 100 years old! That is a mighty exceptional feat and proof that life is indeed a marathon and not a sprint! Violet Moss Clark was born in Midland, Pennsylvania, on August 9, 1920, to Elwood Moss Sr. and Lenora Jackson Moss. The family moved to the Warren, Ohio area in 1923. Violet, a member of Second Baptist Church since the age of 12 and longtime member of Bezaleel Assembly, was married to the late SGIG William Clark 33° of Bezaleel Consistory #15. She is a mother to four children one of whom, LL Beverley Brown, is also a member of Bezaleel Assembly. A social-distance drive-by birthday was held for LL Clark where she received a Resolution of Recognition in support of her milestone birthday.



### A Journey of Faith—Sublime Prince Kenneth Smith's Fight Against COVID-19



The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the world and the United States especially hard as well as many lives, loved ones, and our Masonic Order. L.D. Easton Consistory #21 had four of its members affected. One of our members still is fighting an unbelievable battle against tremendous odds is on his way to a miraculous recovery.

Sublime Prince Kenneth Smith 32°, a member of L.D. Easton Consistory #21, was nominated to be Elevated to the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree (2020). He and his lovely wife, Sister Theresa Smith, have been living in Savannah, Georgia, as Theresa's job transferred her there. March 24, 2020, began a period of trials and tribulations for the Smith family. On that date Kenneth was admitted to Memorial Hospital in Savannah. Within 2 days he was induced into a coma to allow his body to fight the virus. Initially his vitals were stable but by March 30<sup>th</sup> he needed supplemental care for high blood pressure and was placed on a ventilator to assist with his breathing.

The subsequent spread of COVID-19 throughout the United States caused lockdowns and quarantines. Theresa was subsequently required to quarantine at home. After it was lifted, she was still not allowed to be by Ken's side because of the hospital quarantine. Through this trying time, she had support from her work and church family, Masonic members and her many friends in Ohio. Ken struggled through rough nights but had some good nights alone with the hospital staff. Finally, on May 15, 2020, she was allowed to visit. Although, Ken was declared COVID-19 free, the virus left his body extremely weak. He remained in a coma having more good nights than bad nights. His birthday came and was acknowledged by Theresa while he was comatose. Through it all she maintained a positive attitude with sincere faith in GOD.

The next phase of recovery was the attempt to bring Ken out of the coma. The initial attempt failed because his body was too frail. Theresa did not allow that setback to dampen her spirits. In the last week in May, the doctors brought him out of the coma. He still had many challenges in the healing process. His improvement was small, but remarkable. To aid his breathing a tracheostomy tube was inserted but this prevented verbal communication. The month of June brought improvement and weaning off of the ventilator. As he regained his strength, he started occupational therapy at the Savannah hospital to regain the mobility that had been robbed by COVID-19. His improvements can only be attributed to faith and a belief in GOD. This unwavering faith gave Theresa the strength she needed to maintain her vigil with Ken as he endured the loss of his younger brother to a massive heart attack from COVID-19. Finally, in mid-July the doctors were able to remove the tracheostomy tube and assist Ken with communicating with Theresa and his oldest son by telephone. With extensive rehabilitation at the hospital, Ken improved so much that he was transitioned to a rehabilitation center for further assistance on July 18, 2020. Praise the Lord!

This has been a tremendous journey and nothing short of a miracle! Ken was in a Coma for over 2 months! Although he was transferred to a rehab center, they still do not allow visitors. The rehab center is on one floor and Theresa visits him by sitting outside his window. With the staff's assistance, they communicate. He has been able to stand on his own for 10 minutes. One can only imagine how difficult it is to re-learn mobility items that we all take for granted. His improvement has been guided by GOD and in my daily communication with Theresa she gives daily praise and thanksgiving to our GOD.

Now I culminate my story by exclaiming to all, that although Ken had a long way to go before he would be allowed to go home (6 to 8 weeks projected). On August 30, 2020, he came back home to his friends and family laden with signs, clapping and cheering for his return. Things have since changed for Ken after he spent 100 days on a ventilator. He is known as the "Miracle Man" by his doctors and nurses who assisted in his recovery. After being told he would never wake up; be brain dead; and live in a nursing home for the rest of his life; he has defeated the odds through Christ" says Theresa. He is expected to make a full recovery and thanks God for bringing him safely home. Ken and Theresa want to thank all of you for your prayers and support. Please continue to keep them in your prayers. Through Ken's entire journey I have made daily updates to the Deputy for the Orient, SGIG Carl A. Williams 33°. Our praise is to GOD for providing the strength for Sublime Prince Kenneth Smith and his wife.



### Honorary Street Renaming for SGIG Bishop J. Delano Ellis 33°

A street was renamed in honor of SGIG Bishop J. Delano Ellis II 33°. Chester Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio from 105<sup>th</sup> to 107<sup>th</sup> Streets was officially renamed to "Bishop J. Delano Ellis II Way". This stretch of street fronts the Pentecostal Church of Christ where Bishop Ellis has been the Senior Pastor for the last 30 years. He serves as the Associate Grand Prior of the United Supreme Council, Northern Jurisdiction; Illustrious Grand Prior for the Ohio Council of Deliberation; and is a Past Grand Chaplain for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio. Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief and Deputy for the Orient of Ohio, SGIG Carl A. Williams 33°, presented a proclamation to him announcing the day of the street dedication as "Bishop J. Delano Ellis Day" throughout the Orient of Ohio.





## Washington & Oregon

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

The virtual 75th Annual Council of Deliberation and the 48th State Assembly Order of the Golden Circle took place on September 12, 2020.

Due to COVID-19, we had to cancel our event at the hotel. Normal times we would have had the Commanders of the Rite breakfast on Saturday morning. Nevertheless, we were able to have a successful Council of Deliberation. We preceded to open the Council of Deliberation, in attendance were SGIG Melvin J Bazemore, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite (AASR), Northern Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliated (PHA); SGIG Edward Brooks, 33°, Secretary General H.E.; SGIG Daniel R. Poole, 33°, Grand Recording Secretary; Gilbert E. McClary, Sr., 33°, Deputy Grand Master for Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington and Jurisdiction; Robert D. Cassidy, 33°, Most Excellent Grand High Priest (HRAM)/ Right Eminent Grand Commander (GNWC). SGIG Daniel L. Lunsford (Past Deputy). SGIG Henry Sheegog and several staff officers from many organizations were represented. A period of the meeting was turned over to GIG Harden M. Keys, Jr., 33°, Assistant to the Overseer, to continue business while the Overseer Gregory D. Wraggs departed to another computer to logon and conduct the election and installation of the officers for the Grand Assembly. Loyal Lady Rose Enoch was reelected as State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler. One highlight was the Committee on Education presented two \$1,000.00 Scholarships—one from the United Supreme Council and one from the Washington/Oregon Council of Deliberation. The recipients of the awards were Ms. Lauryn Daniels and Ms. Jada S Daniels.



## Wisconsin

**Sovereign Grand  
Inspector General  
Marshall E. Tharpe, 33°  
Deputy**



The Orient of Wisconsin has been and will always be in constant prayer and supplication for the condition and healing of this world.

Within this Orient, each Consistory, Ionic #70 in the Valley of Milwaukee and Madison/Beloit #84 in the Valley of Madison and Beloit, continues to have monthly Communications virtually. Though the dreadful pandemic has caused considerable inconvenience to the Members in this Orient, we will still have our Council of Deliberation by Zoom.

The weekend of October 23-25, 2020 has been dedicated for giving my Annual Allocution. The Hospitality, taking time out to enjoy fruits of our Labor will be on Friday Night, October 23. Each member will be on Zoom in their own home. Council of Deliberation business meeting is on Saturday, October 24, 2020 at 10:00AM. The State Grand Assembly will meet on Sunday, October 25, 2020 at 10:00AM. Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$500.00 from Milwaukee Assembly No. 28 and \$500 from Madison/Beloit Assembly No.70, Plus \$500.00 from the State Grand Assembly will be given. Election and Installation of officers for the Grand Assembly will be done during my virtual meeting with them at 11:00AM.

Quarterly meetings are held by virtual platform with the Sovereign Grand Inspector Generals to lay out plans with feedback for the best results. They are working diligently and in unison on the tasks they were assigned. A few of their duties are to keep in contact with the membership of the Consistories in regards to their general welfare encouraging them to maintain their financial responsibilities in a timely fashion as well as attend their regular meetings via platforms given by the Commander-In-Chiefs.

Before the disruption of COVID-19, the Orient of Wisconsin's Class of Instructions, given an hour before Regular Meetings has been temporarily interrupted. However, Fraters or any Scottish Rite Mason was able to call and speak with the instructor with a question and an answer session. In September or early October, it is expected that classes of instruction will be given Via "Google Classroom" if meeting restrictions have not

been lifted. After the pandemic has run its course and regular face to face classes has resumed, the Google Classroom sessions is expected to continue for those who were not able to make normal class of instructions.

The Commanders of the Rite have regular virtual meetings recognizing the Sick and Shut-in, receiving reports from each standing committee, selecting Scholarship recipients, Fund Raising Options, possible dates for Church Visitation after COVID-19 and establishing new items of business. They also had a prayer line Praying for those affected by the pandemic in April, May, and June 2020.

Madison/Beloit Consistory #84 have regular meetings on ZOOM and they are to be commended on working with voter registration in Madison and Beloit. Several of their members volunteered at the hospital before the COVID-19 pandemic. They are also awarding a \$300.00 Scholarship to a high school graduate entering College. Commander-in-Chief Silas Johnson is serving his first year as CIC and is showing improvement in his leadership role of the Madison/Beloit Consistory.

During the months of September and October, Ionic Consistory #70 will be participating in a series of Voter Registration Drives and initiatives whereby the entire membership is being asked to assist.

I would like to especially recognize and compliment Commander-in-Chief (CIC) Marcel Clarke, 33<sup>rd</sup>, of Ionic Consistory #70. While in office, CIC Marcel Clark has been focused and with results oriented. His ideas were filled with strategic plans and objectives for the Consistory to Include three (3) main areas which are:

1. *The Business portion of the Consistory*
2. *Financial Position and Stability*
3. *Communications*

In CIC Clarke's Business model was to improve Membership by focusing on retention. His process included:

- ♦ *Active, effective and committed leadership (Individual and Committee) at all levels to provide guidance and stability.*
- ♦ *Effective, Coordinated, and synergistic Strategic Communication plans and execution that support Membership focused Strategic Objectives, Operational Strategies, and Programs, Tools, and Processes (PTP's)*

CIC Marcel Clarke also developed Membership Focused Programs that supported the Operational Strategies. They were:

- ♦ *Membership and all other Committees - Active, effective, and committed Consistory Committees produce a Mission Statement and stated Goals.*

- ♦ *New Member Packet – Continue to produce and distribute a top-quality New Members Packet.*
- ♦ *Leadership Workshops – Hold regular Ionic Consistory #70 Workshops that support, enable, and identify Membership focused Strategic Objectives, Operational Strategies, and PTPs in support of the Scottish Rite Strategic Plan.*
- ♦ *Membership Goals – Develop and promulgate specific Valley and Orient Membership goals in areas of new initiation, restoration, and attrition.*
- ♦ *Best Practices, Lessons Learned, and Success Stories – Collect, analyze, and promulgate Valley and Orient Membership best practices, lessons learned, and success stories.*

As a result, membership has re-engaged, meetings have become more productive and membership trends have increased 41%.

Financially, all debts have been neutralized allowing Scholarships to be presented to students seeking higher education. This year Ionic Consistory will be awarding \$600.00 to a deserving student. Being financially solvent allowed Ionic Consistory No 70 to host an Inaugural Fathers Appreciation Breakfast, honoring six fathers in the Scottish Rite fraternity who exemplified excellence in areas of caring, loving and responsible fathers.

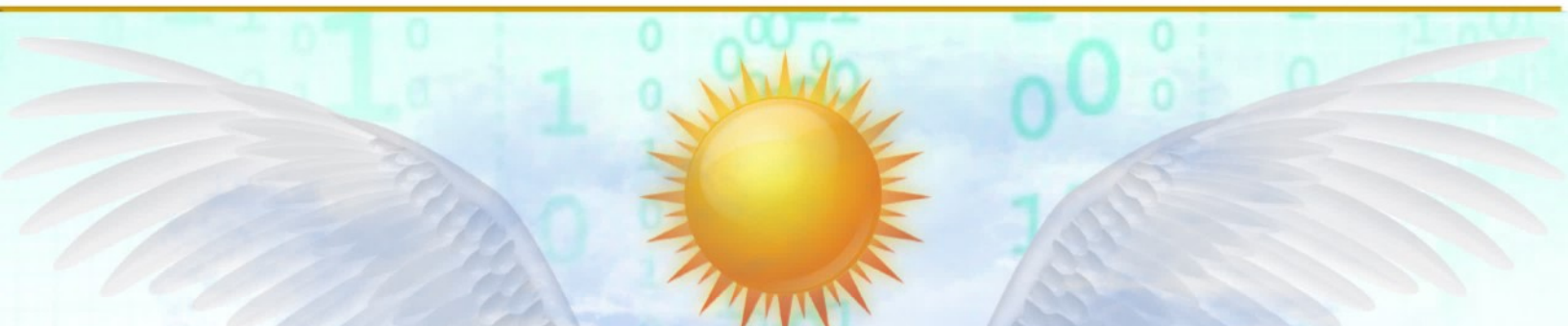
Expanding the use of traditional Communications such as the Postal Service and phone calls, platforms such as GroupMe, text messages and Email have been added, allowing the membership to receive and respond with better Communications in a timely fashion. With the addition of this type of added Communications allows for the Membership to be more engaged with real time information in terms of communicating with Officers, meeting reminders, dues notices and sick reports.

It has been noticed that these tasks were lengthy and required the support from all the officers and members of Ionic Consistory No 70. Commander-in-Chief Marcel Clarke is a leader that has worked hard toward the objectives he had set at the beginning of his tenure. His objectives have been achieved.

Also, Wisconsin was fortunate to received \$1000.00 from the Benevolent fund of the United Supreme Council. This was awarded to John C. Hill of Beloit, WI. A deserving student with a 4.0 average who will be attending Beloit College. I am encouraged that this Orient will continue to grow not only in numbers but in strength, as we all are on one accord.



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A decorative background featuring a bright yellow sun in the center, flanked by two large, white, feathered wings. The background is a light blue sky with faint binary code (0s and 1s) scattered throughout.

**THE FEET OF OUR BRETHREN WILL GO NO MORE UPON ERRANDS OF MERCY,  
NOR FOLLOW THE DEAD TO THE GRAVE, NOR TREAD THE FLINTY PATHS OF  
LIFE. THEIR WORK IS DONE. MAY OUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN BE  
GRACIOUS UNTO OUR BRETHREN AND KEEP OUR FEET IN THE TRUE WAY.**

*May peace be unto the ashes of all who have traveled to that  
undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns.*

**~ REST IN PEACE ~**

*SGIG Otis Hightower Jr., 33°, Ohio  
SGIG Robert E. Thomas, 33°, Indiana  
SGIG O'Neal D. Swanson Sr., 33°, Michigan  
SGIG Louis C. Colbert, 33°, Wisconsin  
SGIG Daniel L. Simmons, 33°, New York  
SGIG Clarence W. Hayes Jr., 33°, Illinois*

*SGIG Gregory Boyd, 33°, Illinois  
SGIG Leonard B. Jackson, 33°, Ohio  
SGIG Arthur R. Crawford, 33°, New Jersey  
SGIG Bishop J. Delano Ellis, 33°, Ohio  
SGIG Edward C. Dobbins, 33°, Washington/Oregon  
PLLR Bettye Jean Stark, Wisconsin*