

Prince Hall Masonic Journal

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois

Winter/Spring 2022-23



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*Right Worshipful Brother Daryl Lamar Andrews, Editor
Most Worshipful Brother Roland G. Simon, Grand Master*





Emmanuel Community Development Corporation
6844 S. Indiana Ave.
Chicago, IL 60637
(773) 488-6869
Dr. Roosevelt Walker, Jr., CEO

December 29, 2022



To: The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois

On behalf of the Emmanuel Community Development Corporation and the New Memorial M.B. Church, I would like to sincerely thank you for your generous donation of 9,018 can goods. Your donation made it possible for many families to have food on their tables during this holiday season. We greatly appreciate your donation, and your sacrifice. Our organization relies on the kindness of donors such as yourself and is grateful for your support. We look forward to continuing this partnership to help provide food to families in the Chicagoland area.



Again, many thanks for your support. It means the world to us and all the families that benefitted from your generous donation!

Sincerely,

Dr. Roosevelt Walker, Jr.
President



Delegation of the MFWPHGL of Illinois at the 2023 Arkansas Grand Lodge Session



Office of the Grand Master

“The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.” – Proverbs 11:3

Brethren, as this administration has reported to you at this Mid-Year Meeting, you should know that all that we have done is for the good of the order and I thank you for the opportunity to serve our Grand Lodge and the community. Again, thank you for the confidence that you have shown me, and I am encouraged that good things will continue to happen for our Grand Lodge.

To the Grand Lodge Officers, Elected and Appointed, thank you for your willingness to work. It is important that the Brethren know that the trust put in you was not in vain, keep up the good work.

Worshipful Masters and Wardens that were in attendance it is your duty to inform your lodge brothers that were not in attendance the instruction and information given to you, and I know you will look well to your duty.

To those of you that traveled to the jurisdiction of Arkansas (photos below) under the leadership of Most Worshipful Brother Cleveland Wilson (pictured), I hope that you came home with a little more knowledge about masonry than you took with you.

Brothers as you go about your day; I’m asking that you include our infirmed and deceased brothers in your prayers. Let us “plead for them who can longer plead for themselves”.

Finally, brethren I am again urging you to support the sisters, in all houses, in an effort to bring them success. Remember as they succeed, we all succeed. Take due notice of my request and govern yourselves accordingly.



Fraternally,
Roland G. Simon
Grand Master



Delegation of Eureka Grand Chapter OES



Presentation of the MWPHGL of Illinois

SOMEONE TO KNOW: Antonio Wellmaker, #97

The United Way and Organized Labor have a long history of working together, dating back more than 80 years. Since 2000, the Tri-Cities Area Division of the United Way of Greater St. Louis has recognized the outstanding accomplishments of a local AFL-CIO Union member with the presentation of the “Heart of the Community Award”. In 2005, the award was re-named “The Karen Brown Heart of the Community Award” to honor a remarkable woman and United Way employee who helped others.

The award is given annually to a deserving member of organized labor whose volunteer work has made a significant contribution to improving the lives of people who live and work in the Tri-Cities Area. IN 2022, the award was given to



Antonio Wellmaker who has the same compassion for helping others as Karen.

Wellmaker is a member of the United Steelworkers Local 1063 and will celebrate 29 years in May at Amsted Rail-Granite City Division. He served our country for 21 years in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Wellmaker is also a member of Dunbar Lodge #97 of Alton, Illinois. Chairman of the Deacon Board of Morning Star Missionary Church, he has a long history of volunteering within the Tri-Cities Area. He is a volunteer Youth Baseball coach in St. Louis County and his dedicated and unselfish support of the United Way is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations Brother Wellmaker!!!

—Submitted by Steve Thomas, #97

A Teacher/Coach of the Month Program

Some years ago, Southern Cross Lodge #112 introduced a program to honor teachers. It was based on the premise that by encouraging teachers, our youth will become the ultimate beneficiaries. Under the hands of the current Worshipful Master, Worshipful Brother Kevin Johnson, the program has been extended.



The Illinois Prince Hall Masonic Family is filled with teachers, coaches and others who aid in the growth and development of youth. Many outside of the Masonic ties also fit this mold well. Yet, do we know who these teachers and coaches are? Consider utilizing the approach by Southern Cross to find out.

Southern Cross’ approach is one that will continue to bode well for the East St. Louis and surrounding

communities where its Teacher Appreciation Program is leveraged. Some are under the belief that it already has. It may be perfectly “in order” to claim that great teachers and coaches were the true source of the dominating victory of the **East St. Louis Flyers** recent **Class 6A** State

Football Championship. The **Mt. Carmel Caravan** of Chicago can certainly make the claim after its victory in the **Class 7A** title. There is great power in encouragement when we know WHO to honor.

With this in mind, do you know teachers, coaches, educational support personnel or administrators who ensure that the capabilities of schools are sufficient to provide the best education possible? Do you know of coaches like Jerald Prince? If so, follow the example of Southern Cross Lodge and honor them today.



Editorial

The Editorial for this edition of the Masonic Journal is unorthodox. It is spread across four key components. They each focus on points for our future.

Lifting up our youth through education and athletics will prepare youth for the challenges of the future. Health checks will help to ensure that many of us are around to see it. Serving our communities will help to ensure

that they know who we are and that we leave the world in a better place than when we received it. Fellowshiping and celebrating AFTER the work is done can help to build stronger bonds between us all.

Let’s work together to extend 156 years of service even further. Let’s become the leaders that we need to be in order to lead communities into that strong future. If we do so together, we will extend the legacy of Freemasonry for generations to come.

— **Right Worshipful Brother Daryl L. Andrews, Editor**



EDUCATION

F156: Lifting Youth via Education & Sports

Editorial A: Over 156 years, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois has endeavored to secure a future through youth involvement and development. The first effort was the introduction of the Order of the Bees for Girls and Boys by Most Worshipful Brother Thomas Samuels in 1919. It was followed by the Order of the Junior Craftsmen in the 1930s under the direction of Honorary Past Grand Master Corneal Davis and several others.

Most Worshipful Brother Henry G. Fort saw the Junior Craft as a solid pool from which the Chicago Urban League could train for the jobs of the future. In doing so, he along with Most Worshipful Brother Obed Vanderburg were stalwarts on the committees of United States Presidents—Eisenhower, Johnson and Nixon—for youth development.

This trend continues today through the Knights of Pythagoras organization, the Velma J. Thames Youth Fraternity, the Junior Heroines of Jericho Court and other organizations. These arms of

Freemasonry present the first opportunities for many to learn leadership skills and experience working with others. With exposure to principles that many Masons hold near and dear to their hearts, these young men and ladies are poised to become the Masonic leaders of the future.

Lodges and parents are also to be applauded. Several are pursuing degrees in higher education because of the focus on education. Athletics has supplemented this as most sports force youth to work together with others under controlled stress. Masters of this skillset tend to be better prepared for life's challenges. This can certainly be attested to by young Mr. DuWayne Portis Jr. who recently spoke about Black History at the steps of the White House in the presence of the Honorable Joseph Biden, President of the United States; the Honorable Kamala Harris, Vice President; and a sea of others.

So, it is with this in mind that Education & Sports are highlighted in this section of Freemasonry 156.—*Daryl L. Andrews*



Southern Cross Teacher & Student of the Month

Submitted by Kevin Johnson, Worshipful Master, #112

On a monthly basis, the members of Southern Cross Lodge #112 present a certificate and a \$50 gift card to a student and a teacher of the month for schools within the community. Grammar Schools and High School Teachers have been the most recent recipients of the recognition which encourages teachers and students to continue working in the vineyard.

January 2023



Southern Cross Lodge #112 recognized Iajae Brownlee (Student) and Christina Cooper (Teacher) at Lovejoy High School in hopes that this will encourage others to work towards good grades, excellent attendance etc. and to let our Teachers know we appreciate them for going above and beyond to educate our children. We will go to a different school each month. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

February 2023



Deontrez Dickerson (Student) and Tania Brock (Teacher) of Dunbar School were recognized as Student and Teacher of the Month.



The administrators and teachers at Dunbar were elated for the student and teacher who received the award. The token of appreciation has provided significant encouragement to all at Dunbar School.





DUWAYNE PORTIS, JR. VISITS THE WHITE HOUSE

It must have been with a sense of great pride and joy for DuWayne Portis Sr. and Dr. Verona Portis to witness their son present on Black History to the President of the United States, Joseph Biden; Vice President, Kamala Harris; and other dignitaries on Monday, January 27, 2023.

A senior at Lindblom Math and Science Academy, DuWayne Portis, Jr. was invited to speak at the White House to open Black History Month. He spoke on the impacts of the brutal murder of Emmett Till stating “Emmett was near my age when he left Chicago to visit his family in Mississippi. We all know the story of how he never came back, but how he never left our nation’s conscience.”

Portis expressed thanks to his parents who raised him to value hard work, faith and service. In doing so, he volunteers at food pantries and clothing drives, mentors middle school students and collaborates with non-profits in the Chicago area. He said, “for me, Black history isn’t just about the past. It’s about what we all do in big and small ways to build the future we all want for our communities and our country.”

Portis is currently applying to colleges and plans to attend a

Historically Black College or University (HBCU). He noted that his top choice is Howard University which was met with cheers by many in the audience. Then, he introduced Howard alum Vice President Kamala Harris.



The volunteer work performed by this young man is very familiar work to Prince Hall Masons. Having participated in these types of activities with his parents, this skill set is second nature to him. He is a selfless servant.

Also an athlete, he finds time to work with the Obama Foundation which aligned him with a program with the TNT Broadcasting Network. He is an assistant to the one and only Charles Barkley. He

is also a public speaker on the topic of mental health awareness and will be awarded a Youth Leadership Award in Indianapolis by the National Employment Youth Coalition in April.



According to his mother, Dr. Verona Portis, “we learn from him”. DuWayne Portis Sr. stated “he is my heart, my soul, the ‘best’ thing that has ever happened to me, the source of many laughs and a few tears. He is my son and he is my world!” **Great Job Parents!!** You just may have a future President of the United States of America living with you. 🇺🇸





Joppa Lodge Serves the Community and Supports the Youth

Past Master Duerell Harley

The Members of Joppa Lodge #79, under the leadership of Worshipful Master Jerome Houston, were busy during the Winter months of 2022 and 2023. Their activities included Thanksgiving Basket preparation and delivery as well as sponsorship of youth athletics and the provision of school supplies at a local school. The focus on the youth was a priority as the Lodge sought to promote education and service as a prime method for all to give back to the communities in which they live.

On November 19th, they provided 30 Turkey Baskets to needy families in the East St. Louis Metropolitan area. These baskets were prepared by members of the Lodge. They were, then, delivered directly to the needy families across the East St. Louis and surrounding communities.

Led by brother Duerell Harley, the Lodge also sponsored the girls' basketball team this year for Mason/Clark Middle School. These girls had an awesome year and advanced to the Regionals. The Lodge lifted them up to show how proud it was of their accomplishment. The brothers also donated backpacks and school supplies to students at Officer Elementary School. The school is the namesake of Sister Annette Officer and the donations ensured that the youth had all necessary supplies for a successful school year. Members have committed to make these events an annual commitment every year.





Estella #3 OES Street Clean Up Day

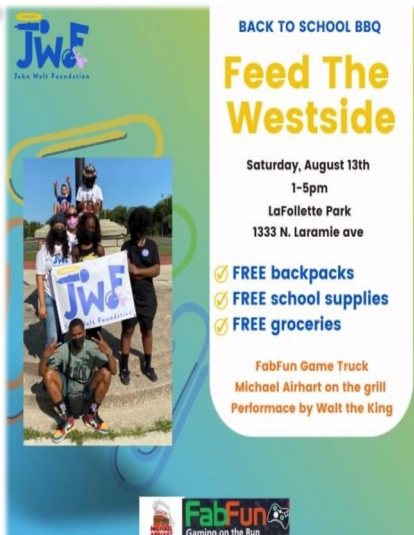
Estella Chapter #3, OES adopted two streets in the City of Springfield, Illinois namely 13th and 14th Streets. Estella has committed to keeping these streets clean for the benefit of the community at large. As such, the members along with the youth took charge. A plaque will be permanently affixed to the posts of the streets denoting that they have been adopted by Estella Chapter #3, OES.



Guiding Light #148, OES Adopt-A-Family

Guiding Light Chapter #148, OES, provided an abundance of gifts for its adoptive family during the Christmas Season. The contributions brought tidings of great joy to the recipient families.





New Yerusalem Serves Chicago's West Side

The population of the City of Chicago among African American citizens is highest on the South and West Sides of the city. While many Lodges are situated on the South Side and provide a great deal of service, New Yerusalem Lodge has made it a point to ensure coverage across the entire City of Chicago. In doing so, they provide sustenance and educational support for families at Moore Park and Lafollett Park on Chicago's West Side.

Book bags filled with supplies were packed for distribution at Moore Park located at 5048 West Adams in Chicago. Youth were inundated with supplies and food in preparation for the future and present appetites. Many were served and satisfied.

A few weeks later, the Lodge travelled to Lafollett Park located at 1333 N. Laramie. More supplies were distributed to youth who were preparing for school and supplies were

also given to the community to aid in their needs. This community event served hundreds and in doing so provided hope for blighted communities.

Helping hands not only provide practical assistance but also open mental and spiritual pathways that others may walk through to receive greater blessings. When brethren work together in unity, all things are possible. When gathered together in the name of the Lord, God is in the midst of them.

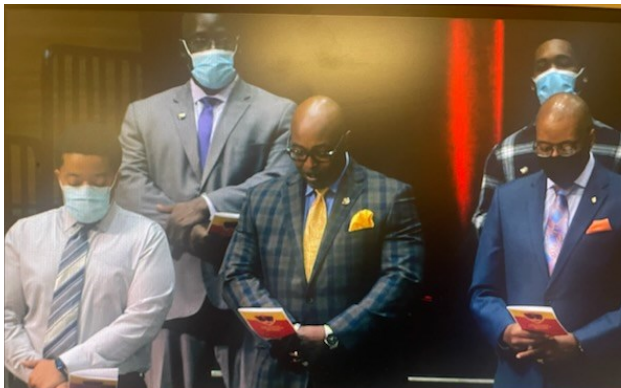
Other sponsors for the efforts included the Chicago Police, Chi Chef, Chicago Fathers for Change, The Thurmond Foundation, The JW Foundation and others who work with the West Side Collaborative Project to improve the state of the community. With New Yerusalem as a part of the coalition, the community will remain in good hands and progress by their works guided by God.





Estella Chapter #3 Bookbag Distribution in Jacksonville

Estella travelled to Jacksonville, Illinois to support Sister Darcella Speed’s Bookbag giveaway. She is an Alderwoman for the City of Jacksonville and is doing her part in making the city a better place for all through service.



Union Lodge #155 “Brothers Keeper” Recognition

Our Union Lodge #155 had the pleasure of being honored at Apostolic Faith Church at an audio broadcast for the Urban Prep 2022 Convocation. The “Brothers Keeper” program is an initiative which originated from President Barack Obama. It explores the lives and families of boys and young men of color and all youth from across the country who participate in life changing intervention programs.



R.E.Moore #109 and Queen Vashti #121 OES Give School Supplies

The members of Queen Vashti Chapter #121, Order of the Eastern Star and Richard E. Moore Lodge #109 gave away book bags to youth. The bags were packed with school supplies that were donated by Associate Patron and Associate Matron Arron & Kensie Reid from their Charitable Foundation FOF BBQ. The youth and their parents also received snacks with hamburgers and hot dogs.



Submitted by Past Master / Past Patron



Relay For Life

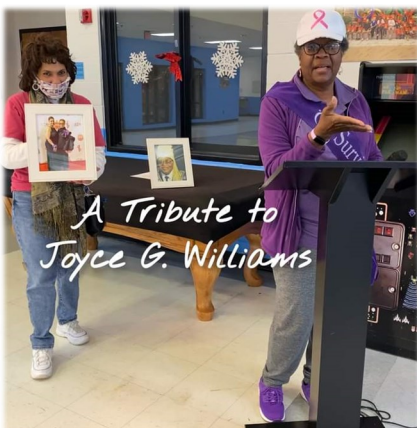
Worshipful Brother Kevin Johnson, #112

Many thanks to our committee chairs, Ms. Joi Haire & Kim Peeples, our RFL committee, Ms. Mary Bobbitt & Ms. Mary Rhodes, Brother Sunshine, Ms. Renee Smith, Dr. Lavon Singleton & Brother Kevin Johnson. And to Jackie



The East St. Louis' American Cancer Society Chapter celebrated its Relay For Life on Saturday, December 3, 2022 at the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Center in East St. Louis. There was a Survivor brunch, Relay Laps in the gym

and glorious fellowship. The focus was remembering our loved ones, celebrating our survivors and being present to say, we are ready to fight cancer in our community!



Joyner-Kersey for providing our group a warm & beautiful space. We truly appreciated everyone who supported this event!

We are looking forward to 2023 when we will be back to our traditional summer Relay For Life event!





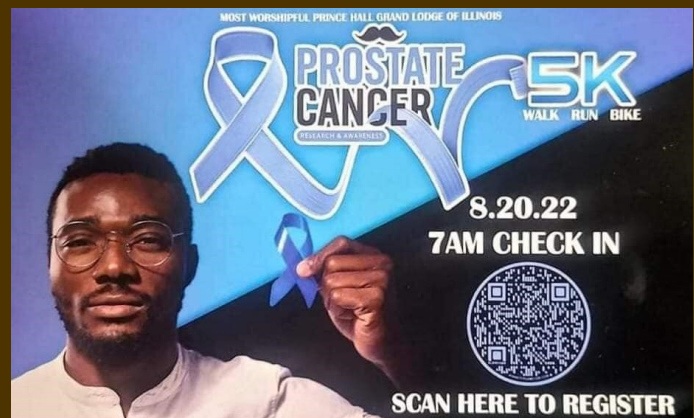
F156: Fighting Causes & Promoting Health

Editorial B: Over 156 years, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois has fought to uplift the lives of citizens in communities across the State of Illinois. The expansion of Freemasonry among black men is tied directly to the fight for civil rights of black citizens in Illinois. The founders of the Grand Lodge were primarily abolitionists who helped many flee the Institution of Slavery and survive when in free lands. As such, the focus has always been on fighting causes.

A key cause is health. Black men are at the greatest risk of being impacted with health issues as compared to other races. These health issues are not limited to but do include cancer, diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure just to name a few. In order to fight this major cause, the promotion of a healthy lifestyle and health practices is a key battle that is being undertaken by Illinois Prince Hall Masons.

Annually Prince Hall Masons gather in the four districts that comprise the Grand Lodge of Illinois. Simultaneously, 5K events are held in each district in a show of solidarity against a key scourge—Cancer. Funds raised from this event are utilized

to promote health awareness. Additional advertisements via billboards, which were introduced by Most Worshipful Brother Roland G. Simon, Grand Master, are helping to save lives. Several have followed the advice on the billboard, had Prostate Cancer detected and took steps to save their lives. By fighting together we are saving one another = brotherly love in action.



Other initiatives like the “Relay for Life” are also supported to generate resources for the fight against cancer and other diseases. Scottish Rite Masons also work to promote healthy eating habits for our youth. So, it is with this in mind that fights for life are highlighted in this section of Freemasonry 156.—*Daryl L. Andrews*



PROSTATE CANCER 5K

The Prostate Cancer 5K Walk, Bike and Run is an annual fixture in the agenda of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois. Cancer has impacted the lives of many families particularly within those of Illinois Prince Hall Masons, Eureka Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Stars and ALL Appendant and Concordant Bodies associated with Illinois Prince Hall Freemasonry. This effort presents an opportunity for everyone to participate and

contribute to the fight against Cancer.

The Grand Lodge has invested finances to spread the awareness of this deadly disease. Billboards have been procured across the state to encourage men of all ages and races to get tested. The testing, itself, has helped to save lives. This event is helping the community around the Grand East and beyond to put pride aside and get tested.

The neighborhood in which the Grand East resides is one of Chicago's finest. It is situated by Lake Michigan which hosts the nation's most beautiful skyline. What better way to encourage





healthy practices and raise funds to fight the beast. It is the funding that is necessary to ensure that research on Cancer can continue. Yet, it is of the utmost importance that citizens stay in shape to place themselves in better positions to deal with life's challenges. By trekking through the community, one gains a better sense of appreciation for the community that is lovingly known and Bronzeville and that the Grand Lodge cares about all lives within its vicinity. As our organization is precious, life is precious even more. Focusing on this fact, the community can

now reiterate to the world the Freemasonry is about a better living and not clandestine activity. It is with great pride that over the past five years more than \$50,000 has been raised and donated to Cancer Fighting Societies and for awareness. Although Cancer does not discriminate by race or creed, it is certainly a familiar disease to the African American Community. As such, it is pertinent that action becomes the result of awareness and that the word does not fall on deaf ears. Encourage someone to get tested TODAY so they can live to see a brighter tomorrow.





The Springfield 5K event was also well attended by brother and sisters from the third district.



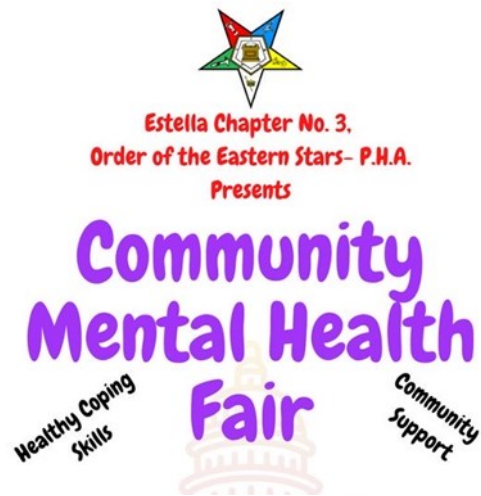
Right Worshipful Brother Tony Stafford, GSW and Sister Trina Vinson lead the way.



Estella Chapter #3 Host Community Mental Health Fair



Sister Barbara Wheatley, Past Matron of Estella Chapter #3, coordinated a mental health and awareness event with Memorial Medial Center in the City of Springfield.



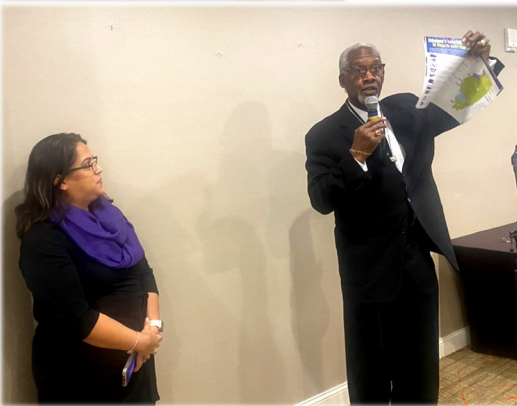
The COVID-19 Pandemic had a significant impact on the community. After the restrictions cleared, many experienced trouble in reconnecting with society on a normal basis. The event provided best practices on coping skills to better aid the community in addressing the challenges in a healthy way. In doing so, Estella helped many citizens to re-engage with society in a healthy manner. It will pay social dividends as the world re-adjusts to social constructs post-COVID-19.



I.C.O.D. Partners with Alzheimer's Association



The Illinois Council of Deliberation signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Alzheimer's Association of the State of Illinois to aid in spreading awareness on the disease and to be partners in educating society about its impacts. The agreement was signed by Illustrious Melvin Frierson, ICOD Deputy and Delia Jervier. Fraters and Loyal Ladies volunteered to become community liaisons to aid the association in implementing its community outreach initiatives. Special thanks to Past Master Ray Willis, #116, for organizing the partnership.



Retrospective: A Duel Edged Sword

Recently, while attending a business meeting, I witnessed some very disturbing actions that compelled me to address them via this document. While on its face, these actions may seem trivial, I feel they should be addressed for the edification of the whole.

In a business meeting, the presiding officer, or the chair, is responsible for maintaining order and decorum throughout the meeting. When a person desires to address the body, they should first be recognized by the chair before speaking to make a motion or address in other ways. So often, brethren will be so quick as to make their voices heard that they will “run over” each other, which undermines the attempt of others to be heard.

Proper decorum suggests that any person desirous to address the body must FIRST be recognized by the chair before speaking. This practice is not being adhered to, resulting in members being “drowned out” or ignored when attempting to address the body. I would like to suggest that the chair address this miscarriage of protocol and remind the membership to refrain from this practice and to wait until being recognized by the presiding officer before speaking while addressing the body. This will allow the chair to remain in control of the proceedings and allow proper decorum to be maintained.

We all would like to be a part of the record of proceedings by making a motion or seconding a motion, However, we should not do so at the expense of trying to bully others to make their voices heard. I trust that these suggestions will be received in the spirit with which they are intended, to assist all in being a part of productive, harmonious meetings.

Submitted by Past Master Homer Walton, Richard E. Moore Lodge #109

2023 Midyear Session of



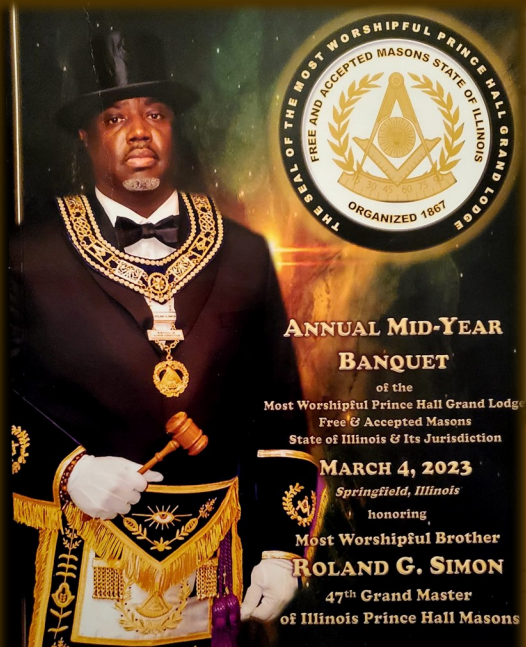
Mid Year 2023 was filled with informative sessions to which seas of brothers and sisters fully participated. The Grand Lodge is in excellent working order with plans in tact to move the Order forward in the years to come.



All sessions were well attended providing information that all will consider and utilize in their various locales.



the MWPHGL of Illinois



The Annual Mid Year Banquet honoring M.W. Bro. Roland G. Simon was also filled with fun and entertainment as well as honored guests from across the Masonic domain. The Grand Master received his just due for his labors.



The Leadership of Eureka Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star shined brightly as witnessed by the full house.





Five Points Tea for Women’s Home

Estella Chapter #3, OES held its “Five Points Tea” in 2022 to support charity. Each year a charity is selected to be the primary beneficiary of proceeds from the Tea. Sojourn Women’s Home was selected in 2022.



Sojourn Shelter and Services, Inc. (Sojourn) is a not-for-profit corporation founded to eliminate domestic violence through service, leadership and education. Sojourn is headquartered in Springfield, Illinois. Sojourn offers several service programs. The Shelter Program provides emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence. In addition to a safe place to stay, Sojourn offers individual counseling and education group services while in shelter. Sojourn also provides community referrals and advocacy for its clients. Sojourn offers a confidential 24-hour hotline for emergencies and support.

The Tea was a grand success allowing members and friends to socialize while raising funds for charity. Estella presented a check in the amount of \$500 for Sojourn’s purposes. These additional resources will be used to aid families in need.



Golden Gate Lifts West Side Shelter



Golden Gate Lodge #43 PHA reestablished its commitment with “Doors To Opportunity”, a Shelter and Supportive Housing Program supported by the Near Westside Community Development Corporation. Golden Gate and Northern Light Chapter #28, OES supplied much needed cleaning supplies including:

- mops,
- buckets,
- brooms,
- cleaning solutions,
- bleach,
- hand towels,
- bath towels,
- liquid hand soap,
- shower curtains
- and hand scrubbers.

It is the continued desire of the 2022 Worshipful Master, Bro John McGee, to purchase school supplies for the many families and children who live there. Per Program Coordinator Carolyn Redmond, “we have 25 units—24 are female headed and for the very first time in the history of Doors a father gained custody of his four children and they now live comfortably at Doors.” Between the two buildings located in Chicago, Illinois at 1428 N Trumbull and 1314-1316 N Spaulding, there are 84 male and female youths. The shelter is in need of support to ensure that these families remain secure.



4th District OES at Work with Shelters

Congratulations to our very own Sister Jackie Johnson and the members of the 4th District who donated 110 sheet sets to a local charity in need (above).

Queen Elizabeth Chapter #24 (right) also provided much need gifts during the Holiday Season for their adopted family to families within the community. The smiling faces say it all.



Eastern Light Chapter No. 68 (left) also extended Holiday Cheer to its adoptive family during the Holiday Season.

The labors in support of the Worthy Grand Matron's Adopt-A-Family initiative lifted the spirits of needy families across Illinois.



Turkey Drive with Sabeel Food Pantry and the Chicago Muslim Association

CHICAGO MUSLIM TURKEY DRIVE

22 YEARS | Of helping families in need for Thanksgiving.

8 CPS Schools | 4,000 Turkeys

Help Continue the Tradition
Donate Today @ www.sabeelpantry.org

Sabeel FOOD PANTRY | MOHAMMED WEBB FOUNDATION | ifan(a)



Union Lodge #155 continued its annual tradition with the Chicago Muslim Community during the Thanksgiving season in Chicago's Woodlawn community. On November 18, 2022, they partnered with the Sabeel Food Pantry and the Chicago Muslim association for their annual Turkey drive. Working together, they unloaded the trucks containing food, water and others sources of sustenance to package and distribute the goods to the community at large.



All in all, 4,000 turkeys and supplies were provided and distributed to families in the Woodlawn community. It is important to note that Freemasonry does not discriminate between faiths. All brethren work together in harmony because the focus on service is critical. All of these items were distributed without respect to one's race, creed, or religious affiliation. With the goal of fulfilling the needs of citizens, the day of service was truly a testimony of the saying—"We are stronger together than We are as individuals!"





F156: Serving the Community without Fanfare

Editorial C: Over 156 years, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois has endeavored to uplift communities by the bare hands of its membership. Through the thousands of hours of community service and countless amount of dollars spent to aid communities, not only in Illinois but also beyond, Freemasons improve the quality of life for the common man.

It is most important to note that the work is not being done to gain fanfare or popularity. It is not being done to gain trophies or rewards. The work, itself, is clearly driven by the needs of the citizens in communities that are hard hit by trauma and tragedy. The burdens to provide assistance are given directly from the hearts of those men and women who lend their helping hands to satisfy the needs that have been presented. While some accounts show smiling faces, the ten second snapshot photo actually represents approximately 10% or less of the amount of work that has actually been done. Yet, the services are impactful and meet the needs.

Partnerships with external organizations are also commonplace. Many Lodges hold partnerships with external entities to increase the amount of services that they can provide. As Freemasonry does not comply with a specific religion, philosophy and political system, the Labors are performed in an agnostic fashion to satisfy the presented needs. Help is given where needed.

In the State of Illinois, the needs of citizens are also not limited by territory. Homelessness exists everywhere. Family shelters are present in every quarter of the state. Environmental concerns, tornadoes, flooding and other natural disasters can appear anywhere. Yet, no matter the location or circumstances, help is granted.

Finally, service knows no race or creed because tragedy knows no race or creed. Someone who needs assistance doesn't care if one is a Christian or a Muslim. He or she just needs help. So, Community Service is highlighted in this section of Freemasonry 156.—*Daryl L. Andrews*



Welcome Star & Princess Zorah Feed the Needy

Past Master George Barmore, DDGL

“For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in” - [Matthew 25:35](#)



“Servant Leadership” by Masons is a key factor that helps the Illinois Prince Hall Masonic Family in Rockford, Illinois and its surrounding locales to maintain its high reputation among all citizens in those areas.

Good leaders know that they are actually the most accountable servants. This has been displayed by Welcome Star Lodge #36 and Princess Zorah Chapter #20, Order of the Eastern Star for years through their annual donations during the Holiday Season.

On December 22-23, 2022 at 5pm, Welcome Star Lodge and Princess Zorah held their annual Feed the Needy Program. They were able to feed 30 families this year with the assistance of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois, donations from Rising Sun Chapter #7, HRAM and the blessing of Most Worshipful Grand Master Roland G. Simon 33°. With this high level of support, their mission was successfully accomplished.

The following items were purchased and distributed to the families:

- 30 5lb bags of. Whole Young Chicken
- 30 5lb bags of Russell potatoes
- 60 cans of Corn
- 60 cans of Green Beans
- 60 boxes of Mac & Cheese
- 60 Boxes of Jiffy Mix
- 30 Gift Desert Package
- \$15 Cash donation for(Gas) Delivery to Elderly Family



Southern Cross Community Service

By Worshipful Master Kevin Johnson

Prior to the Holiday Season, Southern Cross Lodge #112 provided service to communities in need in the City of East St. Louis and Its surrounding areas. Truckloads of items were donated to Trinity United Methodist Church to aid in its missions. The donations were received (above) by Minister Roy Nunn, Pastor LaRon Stover, Ms. Odessa Backstrom and Mrs. Peggy Lewis.

were also delivered to Rush City Community Center. The efforts of the brethren satisfied the needs of hundreds with these donations.



In December, the Lodge prepared Christmas baskets for the community. Several baskets (below) were delivered to the Family Living Center Shelter for Families without Homes ensuring that they had sustenance for the holiday. Baskets



In Recognition of Fifty Years of continued Faithful Masonic Service with Deep Appreciation of your Sustained Contributions to Southern Cross Lodge #112 and Masonry in General, the members of Southern Cross honored four of their members, PGM Melvin Frierson, PM Richard Temple Sr., PM Alfredric Cathion and PM Charlie McIntosh not pictured.



Grand East Thanksgiving Service



Brethren from across the First District cooked and prepared distribution of meals for Thanksgiving at the Grand East.



The Honorable Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Cook County Board continued her annual participation in the Thanksgiving day effort in which hundreds were fed. The youth organizations were utilized to serve meals prepared by Chef Darwin Gordon and other fine chefs within the Illinois Prince Hall Masonic Family. Other items were also distributed to homes of those who were homebound ensuring that all citizens, near and far, had a Thanksgiving meal to eat.





Holy City Lodge #150 Thanksgiving Dinner

The brethren of Holy City Lodge #150 continued the annual tradition of providing Thanksgiving meals for Chicago’s West Side Community. Under the leadership of Worshipful Brother Tony Scott, the Lodge prepared and served the community at 501 N. Central working together to ensure that citizens in need and the community had a safe and warm place to enjoy a holiday meal.



Multitudes were served by the hands of the brethren who prepared and cooked the meal. This activity was the culmination of a year’s worth of charity work performed by the Lodge in blighted communities



New Yerusalem Winter Coat Drive



New Yerusalem Lodge #158 hosted its Annual Coat Giveaway on December 17, 2022 in the Chatham Community at New

Found Faith Ministries. New and gently used coats were collected and distributed to the less fortunate on the South Side of the City. Several coats were also delivered to citizens across the City of Chicago to aid in their efforts to stay warm during the unpredictable winter months.



The Black American Cowboy

At the request of Right Worshipful Brother Daryl L. Andrews, Editor, Prince Hall Masonic Journal and because of the overwhelming reviews from readers, he has requested of me to continue with more writing on The History of African American Cowboys.

As the Grand Historian and a true Texas Cowboy, I do believe that Chicago has a future cowboy on the horizon in the name of "Cowboy" Daryl Lamar Andrews. Welcome aboard my "Cowboy Brother". Put on your spurs because there is a horse in the stable just for you.

Yes, these Black American Cowboys were Africans who were slaves or they were the sons of slave parents. Brothers and Sisters please allow me to continue with the "The History of the Black American Cowboy" and much more. Most enslaved Africans were kidnapped and brought to North America with only the clothes on their backs but they survived. However, they did bring with them a particular set of skills that was of considerable value to the farmers and plantation owners with live stock. Those skills were herding, roping, and horseback riding skills.

Some authorities believe the word "Cowboy" derived from the fact that so many were African Americans and white males would not dignify them with the term "Men". However, the true translation of the word "Cowboy" is as follows. The English word "Cowboy" is derived from the word "Vaquero", which is Spanish word for an individual who managed cattle while mounted on horseback. Vaquero was derived from the Spanish word "Vaca", meaning "Cow" which came from the Latin word "Vacca". That explains the word "Cowboy".

These cowboy pioneers of African descent were a hard breed. They had to be. They had more riding on their journey than white pioneers because they possessed a greater need, they carried a heavier burden, and paid a higher price. Moreover, they had to master more than mountains, rivers, and wild animals. They had to manage their emotions as they sought to survive the wrath of white pioneers and

confronted laws that "Hog-Tied" their pursuit of happiness. They knew they did not always have dream even for their children. But, drawing on courage, a resilient spirit, family strength, and a supportive church, they kept moving forward.

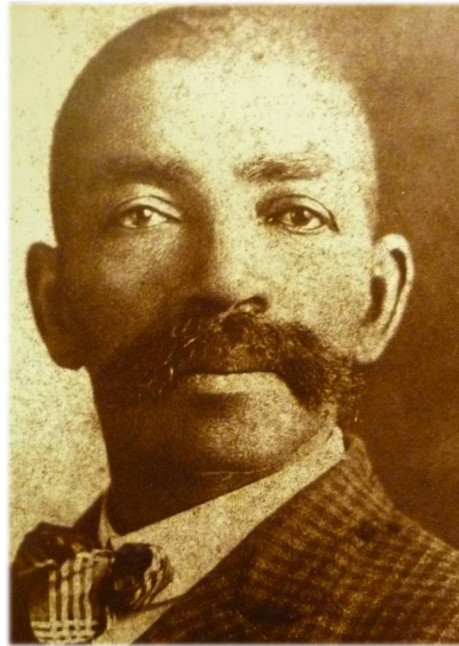
The great era of the cattle, crews began after the Civil War in Texas where five million cattle roamed free and ready for corralling. The cattle industry grew and that was good for the African American Cowboys

because of the overwhelming demand for him to work as a cattle-herder. The demand was on for Cowboys, and Legendary Cowpunchers like Nate Love and Bose Ikard. Remember, I discussed these icons and other cowboys in lengthy details in our Spring 2022 Edition of the Prince Hall Masonic Journal. However, I would be remiss if I did not talk about Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves (pictured).

Bass Reeves, was the first Black, U. S. Marshal, West of the Mississippi River. On the western frontier he was a legend in his own time. You were not a "Texan" as I am, if you did not know about the legendary

Bass Reeves. Born into slavery in 1838 in Crawford County Arkansas he took the surname of his owner, George Reeves who later moved to Paris, Texas where Bass was raised. When his owner joined the Confederate Army during the Civil War, Reeves was taken along with him. He managed to escape after hearing about the Emancipation Proclamation signed in 1863 and the "freeing of slaves". He fled north into Indian Territory now Oklahoma and lived among the Seminole, Cherokee, and Creek Indians, until the end of the Civil War. He was welcomed as a fugitive and learned to speak fluently the Native American Indian languages.

Reeves had a reputation for fairness and the ability to speak several Native American Indian languages. U.S. Marshal James F. Fagan was directed by Isaac Parker, Federal Judge for the Indian Territory, to hire 200 Deputy U.S. Marshals. Fagan had heard about Reeves and knew he was familiar with the Indian Territory, his ability to speak their language,



& A Stagecoach Mail Carrier

and was an expert with pistol and rifle. In 1875, Reeves was recruited and hired as a United States Marshal where he worked for 32 years as a Federal Peace Officer in the Oklahoma Indian Territory.

Reeves stood 6 foot 2 inches and weighed 180 pounds. He earned a reputation as "the most feared U.S. Marshal in the Indian Territory". He was one of Judge Parker's most valuable Deputies who brought to justice some of the most dangerous criminals of that era and time. He was illiterate and remained so throughout his life. However, he was skillful at disguising himself. He relied on his wits to outsmart outlaws on the run. He brought in over 3,000 fugitives to justice and was never wounded. However, he did kill 14 outlaws to defend his own life during his career. He was so committed to serving justice he even tracked down and arrested his son for the murder of his son's wife and brought him in for trial.

On Nov. 16, 1907, Reeves retired as a Federal Peace Officer. On January 12, 1910 he died at the age of 71 from Kidney Disease in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Truly, Bass Reeves, who spent his early life as a slave, who bucked the odds to become the first Black, U. S. Marshal West of the Mississippi River, and perhaps the greatest peace Officer of the Wild West in the late 19th Century, has secured his place in the Western History Books.

Now let me talk about another legend. Sisters, I did not forget about you. Please allow me to give to you "The History on Mary Fields AKA "Stagecoach Mary" (pictured) a Legendary African American Female Pioneer who is definitely in the Western History Books. She became a Legend in Cascade, Montana who is one of the most memorable persons to stride the Rocky Mountain trails. As a youngster growing up in Texas, I would always hear my female relatives talk about her amazing adventures.

Mary Fields was born into slavery around 1832 (exact date unknown) on a plantation in Hickman County, Tennessee. She was six feet tall, weighed 200 pounds, and did not shy away from hard labor. On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation freeing enslaved

people in the Southern States. As a result, in 1865, she left the State of Tennessee to find work on the Mississippi River. By 1870, she was a Chamber Maid on the Steamboat named "The Robert E. Lee".

Mary worked various jobs to support herself that included labor work, laundry work, attending to animals, and doing domestic work attending to children which was her passion. However, after a few years, she went back to Tennessee to help a couple— Judge Edmund Dunne and his sick wife who were raising five children. Mrs. Dunn died and the children, with Mary, were sent to live with the children's Aunt Sarah Dunne now Sister Amadeus a Nun at the Hrsuline Catholic Convent in Toledo, Ohio.



Mary and Sister Amadeus became very close. However, the Sister was promoted to Mother Superior and was sent to run St. Peter's Mission near Cascade, Montana. The conditions were so rough that Mother Amadeus soon fell sick from exhaustion. As soon as Mary heard of her illness, she was on her way. When Mary arrived, she saw that the Mission was far from being finished. However, Mary was no stranger to hard work. First, she

helped with medical treatment for her friend. She did carpentry repair, farm work, attended to the live stock, hunted for food, and attended to the kids. Her strength and drive inspired the other Nuns to help.

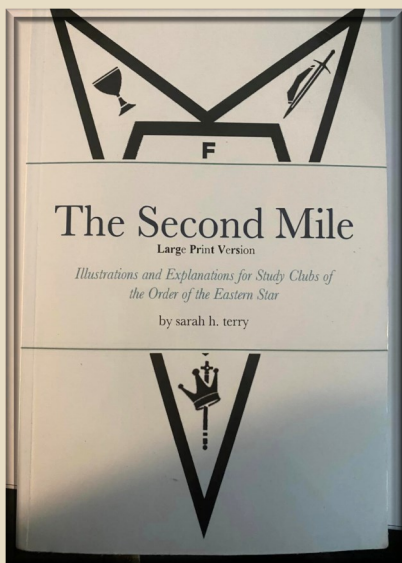
Mary was very independent and she was her own person. She was the only woman allowed in any of the many saloons of nearby Cascade where she demanded and got the respect usually reserved for white men. During a card game she was called a cheat, she pulled out her .38 Smith and Western revolver and shot at her accuser. Well, this gunplay did not please Montana's Bishop John Brondell. In 1894, after 10 years of unswerving devotion, Mary was told to leave the St. Peter's Mission.

Mary's friend, Mother Amadeus helped her to open a restaurant in nearby Cascade, Montana. As tough as she could be, Mary's generosity was also legendary and she was known for helping cash-strapped persons who could not pay for their meal. This generosity resulted in bankruptcy twice and she had



WHAT'S IN YOUR MASONIC LIBRARY?

It is critical that members of the Illinois Prince Hall Masonic Family continue to educate themselves on all aspects of the Masonic Order including Appendant/Concordant Bodies and Adoptive Rites. Here are a few books to consider on the Order of the Eastern Star and the Order of the Golden Circle.



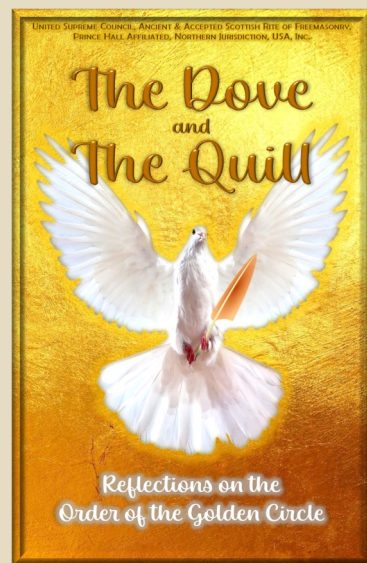
The Second Mile

by Sarah H. Terry

"I have gone through many copies of this book. I have given copies of this book to people. It's a MUST HAVE! If your cover doesn't look like mine... it's fine they are all the same. Yvette Holcomb-Evans got me this one!!" - Sister Chmeara Evans

The Dove and The Quill

This work by the Order of the Golden Circle contains reflections on what the Order of the Golden Circle means to Loyal Ladies of all ranks and grades from the Northern Jurisdiction.



Cowboy Continued ...to close her restaurant. Again, she worked odd jobs to earn money.

Mary's domestic life began to change when she was told by her friend, Mother Amadeus about a sign posted advertising the new mail route to the mission. The catch was to hitch a team of horses faster than anyone else to deliver mail. Mary entered the competition and not only did she win she set a new time record. Now, she is known as "Stagecoach Mary" of Cascade, Montana.

In 1884, "Stagecoach Mary" began her career hauling freight for Mother Amadeus and the Nuns at St. Peter's Mission near Cascade, Montana. She became the first African American Mail Coach in U.S. History to drive a highly sought-after Star Route for the U.S. Post Office. She never missed a delivery even when a snow blizzard made it impossible. But, "Stagecoach Mary" was no ordinary person. In fact, one night in 1898 while driving a Star Route Mail Coach in a remote area of Montana it's the dark of night, and the temperature is 30 degrees below zero and all of a sudden a pack of wolves attacked her wagon and horses. The horses bolted dumping her and her supplies on the prairie. "Stagecoach Mary" being the courageous person that she is spent a lonely night surrounded by wolves keeping them at bay with her knife and rifle. She held her on and eventually the wolves tired and left. "Stagecoach Mary" in her sixties was still driving a stagecoach.

At the age of 70, "Stagecoach Mary" retired and opened a laundry business in her home. In 1912, her home caught afire including her laundry business. Soon thereafter, the neighbors assemble and rebuilt

her laundry business. Even though she never knew her exact Birthday she was so well loved once or twice a year the citizens of the city Cascade would close the school and they would celebrate her birthday on what ever day she came up with. Her favorite Birthdates was March 15 and May 15.

"Stagecoach Mary" died of liver failure at the age of 82 years old on December 5, 1914. She died in the city of Great Falls, Montana. She is buried in Hillside Cemetery at the foot of the mountains. She is truly an American Hero, a former slave, and the freest soul ever to draw a breath or a .38 Smith and Western revolver. Moreover, she was very independent, she was honest, she was a friend you could trust, she was a marksman with a with a gun, rifle and a knife, she smoke cigars, she drank whiskey, she gamble, she swore, and she did not back down from a challenge be it an animal or a man.

Yes, the History of these African American Legendary Pioneers is an important part of our culture and our African American History. A special thank you to Sister Carolyn S. Womack, Reference Consultant.





F156: Fellowshiping after the Work is Done

Editorial D: Freemasonry is truly a family affair that provides the opportunity for multiple generations to come together under one umbrella and work for a common cause. This is most prevalent within the family of Moses Robinson Sr. His entire family joined him at the Illinois Council of Deliberation's Annual Session in the City of Springfield, Illinois during the Fall of 2022. Most Worshipful Brother Roland G. Simon, Grand Master is pictured above flanked by Moses Sr. and Moses Jr., an Alderman in the City of Rockford. They are surrounded by the Robinson family who expressed great pride in being in the company of one another.

Moses Sr. is a stalwart Prince Hall Mason with decades of Freemasonry under his belt. Yet, the photo above provides evidence to the general understanding that all Masons should abide by—fellowship and celebrate when the work is done. Applaud one another after the tasks have been completed. Celebrate those achievements together in peace and unity.

While celebrating though, causes can also be discussed, education can be had and plans for the future can be made. Work required to complete specific tasks can be marked “done” but it may be a small portion of a larger plan. Therefore, time for refreshment should not only be used for a mental cleanser but also a way through which new ideas can be introduced in a friendly manner.

Venues for refreshment can also be selected to help lift up others. Fellowshiping at a venue within the community can have great benefits as long as it is done in moderation and not in a gaudy fashion that would associate a negative connotation to the Order. Why not host a fellowshiping event at a venue within a few miles of your own residence? Why not aid that business encouraging it to continue forward through patronization? These very actions could help to sustain the cash flow within you own communities and drawn neighbors and family into the Masonic fold.—*Daryl L. Andrews*



Cornerstone Lodge #91 Receives Willie McCreary Award from Memorial MBC

On Sunday, October 16, 2022, Cornerstone Lodge #91 was recognized by Memorial Missionary Baptist Church for its efforts in serving the community. Since the COVID 19 Pandemic, the Lodge has escorted and contributed donations to the Missionary Society of Memorial which travels across the Chicagoland area to serve the homeless population. As the primary membership in the Missionary Society for the church consists of female members, their safety and security during the labors in serving the community was a priority because, unfortunately, the conditions within the city have worsened. With the aid of the Lodge under the leadership of Worshipful Brother Erik King (2022) and its candidates for membership, hundreds have been served on the South, West and East sides of the City. These works not only aid the community but have also been a factor in drawing new, quality members in the Lodge.



The Lodge received its recognition during a window of great pride as it celebrated the election of another son of the Lodge to a higher level of service at the Grand Lodge level in the name of Right Worshipful Brother Charles Holiday Jr., Grand Auditor. He represents the fourth member of the Lodge to have joined the elective ranks of the Grand Lodge.

On the weekend of the recognition by the church, two members also joined the ranks of the Scottish Rite namely, William Irving (2022 Senior Warden) and Rev. Charles Prince (2019 Worshipful Master). These achievements and plans for more service were celebrated with the sister Chapter of the Lodge during their annual visitation in December of 2022 after Worshipful Master King passed the chair.





Adopt-A-Park & A Highway

The Brothers of Lone Star fulfilled its commitment to the Adopt-A-Park and Adopt-A-Highway obligations. Fredrick Douglas Park and the intersection of Bradley Avenue & Bloomington Road were cleaned and manicured by the Lodge in October.



Lone Star #18 & Deborah #27

Black & White Scholarship Ball

Lone Star Lodge #18 held its most successful Black and White Scholarship Ball to date. The committee led by Brother Troy Webster did an outstanding job. With the support from the Grand Lodge and members from across the State of Illinois and beyond, proceeds were raised to provide students with educational donations to support their studies throughout the year. Special thanks to Mr. Tytus Kyles for his testimonial for receiving the scholarship and to DJ Terrance Stevenson, the soulful sounds of Kenneth Odom, Fox Element of Style Linda Fox, Mizz Tee's Consulting Teresa L. Blanden Smith Photography Darrin Smith, and Photographer Elonda Navonne Towns for your services. Special thanks also goes to the Corporate and

Table Sponsors. Their generous contributions will allow multiple deserving African American Males scholarships to attend college. We look forward to continued support and see you again on November 4, 2023!

Pilgrim M.B.C.

Lone Star Lodge #18 and Deborah Chapter #27, Order of the Eastern Star visited Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church for a Sunday Morning Worship Service for the ages. The blessed worship service was magnificent with a powerful message from Pastor Rickey Parks.

The examples of service in the Champaign and surrounding communities provides the essence of what Freemasonry is really all about. Salutations to Lone Star and Deborah Chapter on your joint labors, joint celebrations and joint worship services. May your future endeavors be blessed.





Queen Elizabeth Chapter #16 Founder's Day

In recognition of the founder's of their Chapter, the Ladies of Queen Elizabeth #16 held their Founder's Day Service last year at Impact Church located at 1515 Jerome Lane in Cahokia, Illinois. 62206. The church was filled with an abundance of members far and wide including Past Grand Master Aubrey K. Barlow to celebrate and recognize the foundation of the Chapter over one hundred thirty years ago. Salutations to over 130 years of service. May God bless you!!



PHA Fellowship and Support of Black Business

Before the pandemic hit, brothers and sisters started a monthly effort to support a small, black-owned restaurant and enjoy great fellowship and fun with the PHamily. The effort resumed in October of 2022 and has continued since. Brazil's Restaurant provided great food and is a great place to dine. All in attendance along with Past Grand Patron Lawrence Wood were well fed.





D.I.V.A.S. of SOUL win 1st Place in Line Dance Competition

Daughter Detria Matthews, Arabic Court #21

Congratulation to the Nobles & Daughters Of Arabic Temple #44 Soul Patrol and Arabic Court #21 D.I.V.A.S. of Soul on winning the Stroll line dance competition. The Daughters showed up and showed out at the 129th Imperial Council Session of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine held in St. Louis, Missouri. The Desert of Illinois showcased well in all competitions as well as participation.

Congratulations to "Noble Devonte Matthews" winner of the youngest Noble to register and attend Imperial Session 2022. Congratulations also to Daughter Sarah Mayberry who was honored with 3rd Place Clown of the United States, Bahamas and Canada.

The Daughters were there in full support of Daughter Paulette Brown, 49th Imperial Commandress. Her courage and leadership is phenomenal. Great work ARABIC!!!





Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge of Illinois
809 East 42nd Place
Chicago, Illinois 60652

MLK DAY Bowling Events in Illinois

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois celebrated his life and birthday with an event to draw in youth and educate them at the same time. In each District, the Lodge came together to provide FREE bowling for all youth while also giving a presentation on the life and legacy of Dr. King.

4TH DISTRICT—PGM RUFUS STARKS BOWLING EVENT



2ND DISTRICT—MLK YOUTH DAY BOWLING EVENT



1ST DISTRICT—PGM HENRY SHORT BOWLING EVENT

