

2022

The Spring Bulletin

**The Sovereign
Grand Commanders**

**Dr. Sumner
Alexander
Furniss**

The Rite & B.G.L.O.

A Joint Focus on Mutual Progress Despite the Flames of Life

THE BULLETIN

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Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, U.S.A. Inc.*

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The United Supreme Council

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry P.H.A.
Northern Jurisdiction USA, Inc.



The Distinctive Teachings of the Scottish Rite

The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry teaches the splendid truths of its twenty-nine degrees, not abstractly, not in dry-as-dust fashion, but with splendor of presentation and eloquence of appeal. It brings drama to the service of philosophy, leading the seeker through starlit chambers of imagery, revealing constellations of truth - truth that makes us men and sets us free from fear - fear of life, fear of death, fear of engendered by "those blind thoughts we know not nor can name."

The Scottish Rite is for the man who is not afraid to think, who is willing to confront the great problems of faith and philosophy, and the fundamental issues of life, and to think them through to a candid and courageous conclusion. If other branches of Masonry assume tolerance of different religious opinions, drawing men

together upon a common basis by a common bond, the Scottish Rite emphasizes, not only toleration, but freedom of thought, inspiring men to be courageous champions of opinion founded on intelligence and mental honesty. It reveres God without superstition and makes the powerful plea for government without political or religious tyranny. It exalts religion, not as a dim puff of stardust, lost in the haze of the Milky Way, but as an everyday working program of life. To the man who loves mental honesty, it offers a congenial field of activity, the fellowship of kindred minds, the inspiration of a great host of choice men, consecrated to the highest ideals of private conduct and public virtue.

Ill. Laurence L. Jones, 33°

Western Consistory #28

Orient of Illinois

The Centenarian- circa 1953

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May Peace Be Unto the Ashes

The feet of our brethren will go no more upon errands of mercy nor follow the dead to the grave. Their work is done. May our Father in Heaven be gracious unto our brethren and keep our feet in the true way.

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Carlisle N. Blackett

ORIENT OF EASTERN CANADA

Sunrise: June 1, 1931 ~ Sunset: December 12, 2021

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Lafayette Gatling Sr.

ORIENT OF ILLINOIS

Sunrise: August 5, 1940 ~ Sunset: December 28, 2021



SGIG Carlisle Blackett



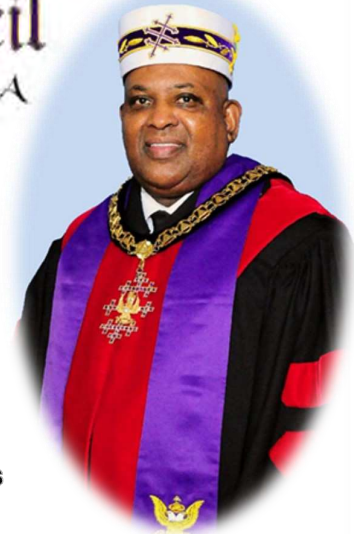
SGIG Lafayette Gatling



The United Supreme Council

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry P.H.A.
Northern Jurisdiction USA, Inc.

Office of the Sovereign Grand Commander



141st USC Annual Session Vaccination Requirements

As we prepare for our upcoming **141st USC Annual Session May 27-31, 2022**, I want to provide you with due and timely notice that you will be required to show proof of your COVID 19 FULLY vaccinated status to participate in our session with your health and safety our top priority. This requirement is applicable to all attendees and guest.

If you have not been vaccinated for the COVID 19 virus, I encourage you to do so. If you have, I encourage you to get your booster shot. I, along with your elected officers have all been vaccinated and boosted. We encourage you to do the same. You will receive additional COVID virus protocol guidance as we get closer to our annual session. We, along with our Medical team are monitoring the ever changing dynamics.

Again, **you will be required to show proof of your COVID 19 FULLY Vaccinated Status to participate in our session**, along with other established mitigating protocols that will be communicated via separate correspondence.

Protecting the health, safety, and well-being of our members and guest is paramount. I would like to thank each of you for your patience, prayers and words of encouragement for your elected officers. We are working as a team to assure our organization is safe and operating in this unprecedented time. Please see the CDC factsheet on how to help reduce the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) by visiting the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov. For ongoing updates click www.uscnjpha.org, or contact your Deputy for state-specific information.

Yours in the Rite

Melvin J. Bazemore

Melvin J. Bazemore, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander



Grand Minister of State



Spring is the season of new beginnings. Fresh buds bloom, the earth seems to come to life again, gardeners plant their seeds and temperatures slowly rise. As we thank God for blessing us and bringing us through a devastating winter, we can only say in a few short words, "thank you dear God." We were faced with many health

challenges, Covid-19, Omicron and its variances, loss of jobs, race relations, voting rights and the threat of war in Ukraine. Let us all pray for Lieutenant Grand Commander, Sovereign Grand Inspector General Sidney Broadnax, 33°, for a speedy recovery. David said, the God who forgives all our sins and heals all our diseases are always present for those who believe. Jehovah Rapha the God who heals. We thank you dear God.

LOOK UP, great things are going to happen at our 141st Annual Session that will convene on May 27-31, 2022 in Philadelphia, PA. We thank God for allowing us to meet in person. This is a session you don't want to miss! There will be enough activities for everyone, some of the activities will be: The B. Albert Ford Symposium, Veterans Benefits Symposium for both Fraters and Loyal Ladies, and the United

Supreme Council Community Health Fair, just to name a few, but wait! There is a special historical event that will take place. You must be there!



History was truly made when Erin Jackson, my niece whose is the first female African American to win the five-hundred-meter speed skate gold medal in 28 years in Beijing China. Kudos to Erin!

***Sovereign Grand Inspector General
William R. Stark, 33°***

Secretary General H.E.



First giving honor to the G.A.O.T.U. for his many blessings. Over the past two (2) years we have been struggling through this Pandemic. As of this writing it seems that we may finally may be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. We are not there yet but, we're getting close. Let's all continue to pray.

The United Supreme Council is moving forward with our plans to have our 141st Annual Session and 47th Triennium, in the City of Philadelphia, PA, May 27-31, 2022. If you remember, the last time that we met in person was the 46th Triennium. I am really looking forward to seeing all the member of this United Supreme Council. We have all COVID Protocols in place to receive our membership, and we asked that if you have not received your COVID shots please consider doing this before your arrival.

On January 13-16, 2022, we met in the City of Omaha, Nebraska to conduct the Annual Mid-Year conference with the Deputies, Assistance and essential personnel. This conference was very productive and went very well. We reviewed all fiscal and status reports from Deputies across the several Orients.

The climate in the Philadelphia area is trending downward and the city governing authorities are starting to lift a lot of the restrictions for indoor dining. If you are planning to attend the USC Session, take time to avail yourselves of all the amenities that the Philadelphia area has to offer. While here stop by and see your USC Cathedral and the two (2) high rise apartment complexes that you own. The USC provides low-income housing for Philadelphia residents with some 250 units between these two facilities.

We have a full agenda planned for the membership to keep you busy. We have been away from each other for to long, so let's get back together and start enjoying life again.

May God Bless you all.

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

Editorial



In this edition of the Bulletin, we are continuing our series on the Sovereign Grand Commanders with the spotlight of Illustrious Sumner Alexander Furniss from the Orient of Indiana. Like his successor, Illustrious George W. Crawford, Illustrious Furniss was an active leader in many social, civic and professional circles. As a

college graduate, he was also active in Black Greek Letter Organizations (BGLO). While the Rite provided sustenance for the community, BGLO provided support on campuses. Comradery for mutual progress affirms the kindred spirit between them which is also explored in this edition. We are also featuring columns for veterans and for our own history. From the feedback received, these great nuggets in all of these areas are definitely helping to advance our Scottish Rite experience.

Thank you again to those who submitted feedback from prior editions. While all suggestions are not incorporated, you will see some updates in this edition based directly on your feedback. The cutoff for the next edition as well as the email address for submissions are now located at the bottom of each page along with the website

for the United Supreme Council. This was a great suggestion so keep them coming.

Lastly, in celebration of its 101st Year of existence, we are moving forward with a project to make past editions of the Bulletin available. As the current editor, I am honored to serve at the helm along with those distinguished Fraters who have done so over the years. What better way to pay respect then to ensure that their labors are available for all to see. With this in mind, efforts are underway to reproduce ALL editions of the Bulletin from 1921 and onward in a series of volumes. The goal is to make the first volume available by the Fall of 2022. Please visit the United Supreme Council Website to keep track of updates.

Yours Fraternally

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

A Retrospective



Due to working from home and being forced to watch "The View" this week I saw something that I thought I would share. As we all know we are in the last few days of Black History Month and Whoopi Goldberg gives a few nuggets here and there. The other day she mentioned **Constance Baker**

Motley, who is most noted for being the first Black female Federal judge in the United States among other things.

What does this have to do with the Scottish Rite? As a young lady she was inspired to pursue the study of law due to the example set by watching **Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander George W. Crawford 33°** (a very prominent lawyer in New Haven, her hometown) deliver a lecture.

What was the lecture about? Ill. Crawford spoke about the relevancy of a case in Missouri where Black students ultimately were allowed to attend in-state schools as opposed to receiving



tuition from the state to attend a similar school out of state.

Why is that relevant? One of Motley's more celebrated cases involved James Meredith. He applied to attend the University of Mississippi and was denied admission due

to race. She was assigned by the NAACP LDF to defend him. Long story short—she won. That case shared many elements of the case she heard Illustrious Crawford lecture about.

Prince Hall Scottish Rite Masonry is everywhere and is interwoven in the fabric of America's history.

**Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Reginald B. Stewart**

Our History Should Not Be A Mystery: Part XV

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CONSISTORIES ORIGINATED?

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Reginald Stewart, 33°, Grand Historian

***“When you see saw dust, the sawmill is not that far away...”—
G.I.G. Melvin “Pete” Pyles, 33°***

This column has been running for some time now and more than half of our Consistories have been profiled. The ones that are remaining either have no known written histories; have been defunct for some time; and/or scant information remains. As I mentioned in the last edition many of our Tall Cedars are being felled by Father Time and with them all the history of our various bodies becomes lost. However, the show must go on. Please read and enjoy.



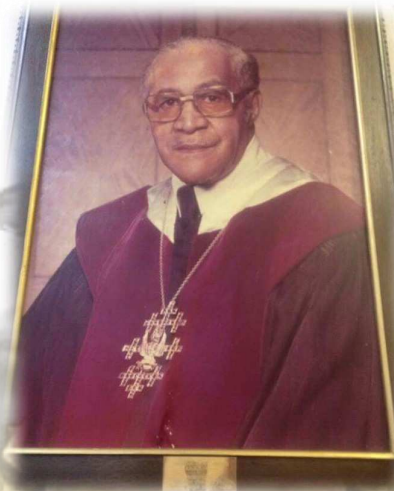
***Kennett Square Consistory No. 36
Valley of Kennett Square
Orient of Pennsylvania
Chartered early 1920s (Defunct)***

This Consistory was eponymously named for the city in which it was located—Kennett Square. It was chartered during the tenure of Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief and Deputy for the Orient of Pennsylvania S.G.I.G. Howard D. Gould 33°. Not much is known about this Consistory as its existence was very short. It went defunct around 1923. As a bit of further history, Kennett Square is known as the Mushroom Capital of the World.

***Prince Hall Consistory No. 67
Valley of Seattle
Orient of Washington/Oregon
Chartered May 12, 1945***

The naming of Consistories would not be right if there was not one named after our patron saint of sorts—the very reason for our existence—Prince Hall. This honor goes to the Fraters in the Orient of Washington/Oregon.

The first Consistory named “Prince Hall” was chartered on November 10, 1879, in Chicago under the aegis of John G. Jones. Sometime later another Prince Hall Consistory (USC NJ) was chartered in York, Pennsylvania, but has since become defunct. Interested Brothers in the Seattle area formed a club called the “Prince Hall Club” and from there the Consistory came to life.



Eventually from their ranks emerged honorary Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington; past Most Illustrious

Commander-in-Chief and Deputy for the Orient of Japan; and our 14th Sovereign Grand Commander, S.G.I.G. Russell S. Gideon 33°. So impressive an individual was he that a Gold Medal of Achievement was bestowed upon him in May 1980 at the 99th Annual Session (33rd Triennium) in the Valley of Philadelphia. At the 105th Annual Session (35th Triennium) held in the Valley of Philadelphia, the Class of 1986 was named in his honor. Additionally, G.I.G. Samuel J. Smith 33° was a Gold Medal of Achievement awardee in Chicago in May 1978 at the 112th Annual Session.

Of note, S.G.I.G. Joseph I. Staton 33°, Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief and Deputy for the Orient of Washington/Oregon and Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington was a member of this Consistory. There is a Consistory named in his honor in the Philippines belonging to the Orient of the Far East.

Thanks to the late S.G.I.G. Daniel L. Lunsford 33°, Cascadian Consistory No. 75, Valley of Tacoma, Orient of Washington/Oregon for his assistance.





VA Home Loans and Predatory Practices

VETERANS CORNER OF THE BULLETIN

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



The Veterans' Affairs (VA) Home Loan program is one of the most popular and widely used for servicemembers and Veterans. In most cases, the VA does not directly fund home loans. VA home loans are provided by private lenders, such as banks and mortgage companies and the VA guarantees a portion of the loan. This enables lenders to provide borrowers with more favorable loan terms.

There are major benefits to using a VA home loan to purchase a home. Generally, no down payment is required; however, some lenders may require down payments in certain circumstances. Additionally, VA home loans have limited closing costs and competitive interest rates. Also, there is no need to obtain Private Mortgage Insurance. Furthermore, it is a lifetime benefit that may be used multiple times.

To qualify for a VA home loan, there are eligibility requirements. The servicemember or Veterans' length of service or service commitment, duty status and characterization of service determine eligibility. Additionally, National Guard members with at least 90 days of active service including at least 30 consecutive days are eligible. For specific questions regarding eligibility, visit www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/contact_rlc_info.asp or call 1 (877) -827-3702 to contact one of the VA Regional Loan Centers.

STEPS FOR A VA HOME LOAN

The VA does recommend certain steps to take when purchasing a home through the VA Home Loan

program. The steps are as follows:

1. **Apply for a VA-backed home loan Certificate of Eligibility** (*Serves as proof to the lender that you qualify for the VA home loan benefit*)
 2. **Evaluate your financial status**
 - Credit Profile
 - Income and Expenses
 - Monthly budget
 - Determine how much you want to spend on a mortgage
 3. **Choose a lender**
 4. **Choose a real estate agent** (*Read all agreements before signing with an agent and understand any charges, fees, and commissions as well as your rights and obligations*)
 5. **Shop for a home**
 - Look for houses in price range
 - Consider what factors are most important to you and your family (i.e., quality of schools, transportation, commute to work)
- Once you've found the house you want to purchase:
6. **Work with your agent to draft and sign a purchase agreement**
 - Ensure the sales contract includes the "VA escape clause" or "VA option clause." This provides an option to void the contract if the property doesn't appraise for the contract price
 - Consider contingency options if the property fails inspection
 7. **Have the property inspected and appraised**
 8. **Review pre-closing documents and provide lender and other required information**
 9. **Close on your new home**
 10. **Move in**

PREDATORY PRACTICES

The VA Home Loan program is a great benefit to servicemembers, Veterans, and their families; however, there have been concerns with financial institutions

employing predatory practices to take advantage of borrowers. Congress and federal regulators have attempted to address the issue; however, an August 2021 report from the Office of Congressman Katie Porter, 45th Congressional District, Orange County, California indicates the issue persists. The report addresses two types of abuse: loan churning and risky cash-out refinancing.

Loan churning is a scheme where lenders originate an overpriced loan and then quickly pressure the borrower to refinance, generating new closing costs. It often starts through unsolicited offers to refinance your mortgage that appear to be official. Many promise extremely low interest rates, thousands of dollars in cash back, skipped mortgage payments, no out-of-pocket costs, and no waiting period. For example, lenders may advertise a low-interest rate to gain a consumer response to an advertisement. The consumer may assume that the rates are for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage, however, its actually for a 15-year or an adjustable-rate mortgage. This may result in the consumer paying discount points to obtain the advertised rate. Additionally, some of the other advertised benefits are costs that are generally added to the loan and increase the overall principal balance.

Cash-out refinancing is refinancing an existing mortgage loan, where the new loan is for a larger amount than the existing loan. It allows the borrower to withdraw cash from the total equity in the home and



CRADLE TO COLLEGE MENTORING PROGRAM

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



The work and dedication of our participating Orients (Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, and Washington/Oregon) is truly appreciated. We continue to monitor the COVID-19 guidelines established by our Sovereign Grand Commander and local authorities, regarding activities we can or cannot participate in. However, our participating Orients continue to provide innovative programs. Even more innovation will be noticed after all restrictions are lifted because all of our Mentors are ready, willing, and able to provide this valuable and worthwhile service to our youth. Our program's intent is repeated below for your information.

Our Mission:

Provide mentoring services to school districts in the Orients/Valleys of our fraternity in a caring, competent, and professional manner.

Our Philosophy:

The mentoring program is not a tutoring program. Mentors don't need any special skills, education, or training (beyond in-service training provided by the various Orients), but they do need to understand how to be compassionate and patient and attempt to instill proper moral values in the young people by the time they leave the program. At the same time Mentors should demonstrate, by their demeanor and behavior how the Mentees can be assets to their respective communities. The program can be adjusted to best fit the needs of the Orient, Valley, and School District.

Mentoring Coordinators should be prepared to report annually to the Charmian at the end of the school year.

Goals/Purpose:

- ♦ We will augment and support the school programs under the direction of the school administration.
- ♦ Expose students to positive local role models (Mentors should indicate they are strong competent and caring adults).
- ♦ Mentors will provide information and advice concerning career choices (choices available may be college, trade or vocational training, or the military training among others).
- ♦ Mentors should provide positive reinforcement through awards and recognition.
- ♦ Describe the benefits of the program and what the Mentees will gain through their participation.

typically results in a higher monthly payment. It may seem to be an attractive option for young servicemembers or Veterans with outstanding debt. However, it may create more financial distress over the long term. Cash-out refinancing is not necessarily predatory; however, some lenders do use this type of loan to exploit consumers.

PROTECTION FROM EXPLOITATION

Fortunately, there are government agencies that identify, stop and prevent illegal and misleading advertising regarding VA loans and refinancing. The **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)** is one of those agencies.

They employ VA loan specialists that can assist servicemembers and Veterans and answer questions they may have. Complaints regarding refinancing and other mortgage issues may also be submitted to www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint/ or via phone at 1 (855) 411-2342.

Additionally, if a borrower is having difficulty repaying their mortgage, the CFPB may assist and explore viable options. Furthermore, to reduce unsolicited phone calls from lenders, homeowners may also place their phone number on a National Do Not Call Registry at www.donotcall.gov.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Although there are laws intended to protect servicemembers and Veterans from predatory practices, its equally, if not more important to be proactive and research lenders, realtors, inspectors, homeowner associations, and other entities involved with the home buying or refinancing process. Take a good look at their history and client reviews. Ask questions and educate yourself, so you may get the best financial outcome for you and your family. Additionally, if it seems too good to be true, it likely is.

THE GOLDEN LIGHT: Loyal Lady Spotlights

Orient of Alaska



Past State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Virginia A. Kilpatrick is the 5th SGLLR for the Alaska Grand Assembly. She served from 1999 through 2002. She was one of the original Loyal Ladies for the State of Alaska, hailing from Alaskanite Assembly No. 76, Valley of Anchorage. She entered the Grand Assembly after serving as Loyal Lady Ruler, and held the positions of Grand Loyal Lady Secretary (1988-89), Grand Loyal Lady Herald (1990-1993), Grand Loyal Lady Priestess (1994-1996), as well as Loyal Lady Associate Ruler.

She was appointed as State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler in 1999 by Deputy of the Orient, Richard J. Watts Sr. She was reappointed in 2000 by Deputy of the Orient, Ruben Jackson. When she retired from that position, she continued to serve as Grand Loyal Lady Treasurer, and continued to serve the Grand Assembly in that capacity for over 13 years.

Further she served the Prince Hall Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star as Grand Worthy Matron (1976-77). She



is a founding member of and served in various positions for Al Hejaz Court #3.

During her time in Alaska, PGSLLR Kilpatrick has been instrumental in the growth of the bodies. Her participation is evident in the fact that she is accounted for in every PHA body that was created and operated in this State. She has been held in high regard by the leadership on both the men and women's side of the house; her timely advice and institutional knowledge has been well received.



She continues to be a beacon of light for her Sisters and the Christian community, as she continues to display grace and beauty as one of God's flowers.



Orient of Connecticut



At the 2021 Connecticut State Grand Assembly meeting held at Ashlar Village on November 20th State Grand Associate Loyal Lady Ruler **Nancy Sims** was elected and installed as the new Connecticut State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler. SGLLR Sims, a recent retired Office Assistant at a University comes well prepared for the office being a Past Most Ancient Matron of Jeroham Court #3, Heroines of Jericho, Secretary of Jordan Court #7, Ladies of the Circle of Perfection,

SGLLR Sim's theme for the year is "Getting Back to Basics Through Service to our Community". Her major goals are to bring the two Assemblies together to perform at least two community projects; to raise funds to give book scholarships to deserving college students and to give public recognition and honor to Past State Grand Loyal Rulers.





Freemasonry and Black Greek

In order to meet the demands of the day and age, African Americans have historically banded together to create power and share resources. This is certainly the case for Afro-American Freemasonry. While the formal organization of African Lodge can be tied to the charter issued in 1784, organizations like the Free African Society had also been in place to meet the challenges of Slavery. Its objectives were not only to free the enslaved but also to provide those who made it northward with the resources and abilities to start and sustain a new life on the homefront. This became its fundamental function and duty.

Faith, hope and charity fueled these actions. It is no secret why Prince Hall Freemasonry pulled from these ranks to fill Masonic Lodges. Their faith in God and worship yielded direction which resulted in solutions for the issues of the day. The relief provided by them also gave others hope in a better tomorrow. The acts of charity were acts of love that were meant to build a stage for the future. It is upon this stage that the fraternities and sororities of today stand.

While multiple Black Greek Letter Organizations (BGLO) have been in existence since the turn of

the 20th Century, they all receive acclaim for their works at the professional and collegiate levels. These organizations serve the purpose of advancement within multiple circles. The products of their unions provide evidence to their relevance today.

Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity is considered one of the first African American Greek fraternal orders in America. With its members affectionately known as the Boule, the fraternity was organized at the turn of the 20th Century as a means for African American professionals to share resources. Its ranks included physicians, scientists and other professionals who sought to convene and design solutions that would extend the careers of black professionals and open doors for subsequent generations. Many black Freemasons were members of these ranks in its early stages including Dr. Allen A. Wesley of North Star Lodge #1, Chicago, Illinois and others. Their success in uniting like-minded individuals opened new doors and could have been the spark which prompted the formation of fraternities on college campuses across the country.

The turn of the 20th Century found many African American students attending some of the

nation's most prominent universities. In order to ensure success, several felt it necessary to band together for protection and to share resources that would allow ALL to succeed. This is the premise for the creation of all BGLOs.

Alpha Phi Alpha was founded in 1906 on the campus of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Influenced by the Boule, its founding fathers organized themselves into the first black fraternity to ensure mutual success. The fraternity grew at Cornell and expanded across the country. The Beta Chapter was organized as the first fraternity on a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in 1907 at Howard University in Washington, DC. Its success provided a model upon which other fraternities and sororities would establish and extend themselves.

Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority followed suit in 1908 at Howard University. It was the first sorority to be organized on the campus of a HBCU. Its founders were true women of distinction who sought to bring together link-minded ladies. Their focus on scholarship and service became a factor which drew more into its fold. Their formation sparked the establishment



Letter Organizations (BGLO)

of other new sororities and fraternities on the same campus in subsequent years.

Like Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi was organized on a predominantly white campus, Indiana University, in 1911 originally as Kappa Alpha Nu. The fraternity found itself embroiled in racial unrest early on. One of its initiates, **Frank Myron Summers**, was a track star who endured racial taunts as he excelled in Track and Field. Often called that “Kappa Alpha Nig”, he continued to excel despite the epithets. The fraternity decided to change its name to Kappa Alpha Psi and has remained steadfast in its pursuit of excellence.



With the establishment of a sorority on the campus of Howard University and the existence of Chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha and Kappa Alpha Psi on the campus, other groups of men and women were inspired to organize fraternities and sororities of their own for similar purposes. Omega Psi Phi was organized in 1911 and, within ten years, three additional organizations

would follow. Delta Sigma Theta was organized as a sorority in 1913 from ladies who previously held membership in Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Phi Beta Sigma was organized as a fraternity in 1914 and Zeta Phi Beta was organized as a sorority in 1920.

Sigma Gamma Rho became the first BGLO sorority to be organized on a predominantly white campus. Founded in 1922, Sigma Gamma Rho was formed on the campus of Butler University. Its initial membership consisted of talented women of distinction who worked together to ensure mutual success in the educational arena. Like the aforementioned organizations, it remains in tact to this day.

It is important to note that each fraternity and sorority leveraged one another for their genesis and forward movement. The relationship between each is apparent as their modes of organization and expansion are almost identical. Each organized itself and adopted the Chapter system for logistical purposes. Each utilized a similar hierarchy in leadership structure and mode of operation. Each made it a point to collaborate with one another to maintain regularity. These relationships, the common structure

and common bonds of mutual improvement became a basis upon which a formal organization was created in 1930 to maintain the bond. As such, they came together in 1930 to form the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) which remains in existence to this date.

The NPHC welcomed Iota Phi Theta fraternity into its ranks in the 1960s. Founded on the campus of Morgan State University, an HBCU, Iota Phi Theta was actually born from the Civil Rights Movement. Many of its initial founders bonded well with the ideals of the Black Panther Party including self-reliance and strength in unity. These concepts drew men of like-mind together on the campus to found the fraternity in 1963.

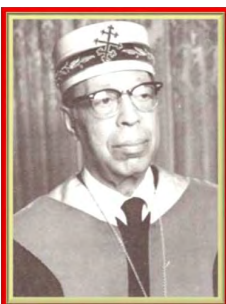
Many stellar African American citizens throughout history have had a direct linkage to BGLOs and have also attested to the fact that the organizations helped them to complete their collegiate educational requirements and post collegiate requisites. The bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood run deep as attested by the likes of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Jesse Jackson Sr., W.E.B. DuBois, Carter G. Woodson, George Washington Carver, Rosa Parks and many

others. Their examples have inspired generations of young men and women into the ranks not only on campuses through BGLO but also in the community through Prince Hall Freemasonry. Together, they activated many citizens who helped to sustain the state of the African American community despite the struggles of race relations. Considering this, it is no surprise that several BGLO founders held direct ties to Prince Hall Freemasonry including:

- George Biddle Kelley, a founder of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, was a member of Mt. Moriah Lodge #25 of Troy, New York.
 - Ezra D. Alexander, a founder of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, was a member of Central Lodge #1 of Indianapolis, Indiana.
 - Ernest E. Just, Edgar A. Love and Frank Coleman, founders of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, were members in Lodges under the Jurisdiction of the District of Columbia. Just was a member of Corinthian Lodge #18 while Love and Coleman held membership in Pythagoras Lodge #9.
 - A. Langston Taylor, a founder of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity was a member of Pythagoras Lodge #9 of Washington, DC.
- Freemasonry, itself, is an extension

of the mutual aid and relief that was being done on college campuses. As such, it is a natural transition for one to move from the collegiate ranks to the ranks of Freemasonry.

The Scottish Rite is considered the University of Freemasonry and it is of great interest to note that several BGLO leaders were also active in the Rite at the same time. Illustrious Frank Summers served as



the 14th Grand Polemarch for **Kappa Alpha Psi** Fraternity while serving as Deputy for the Orient of Illinois. Illustrious

Sumner A. Furniss became a charter member of a Graduate Chapter of **Alpha Phi Alpha** in Indianapolis, Indiana while serving as Sovereign Grand Commander of the Northern Jurisdiction. The double ties extend through other Sovereign Grand Commanders of the Northern Jurisdiction as well. Illustrious Russell Gideon and Illustrious Booker T. Alexander held membership in **Phi Beta Sigma**. Illustrious Algie S. Oldham held membership in **Kappa Alpha Psi**. Illustrious Melvin J. Bazemore



is a member of **Omega Psi Phi**. There are countless other examples of the same which helps to draw a link between the nature of the BGLO and the Scottish Rite.

The pursuit of knowledge is most-definitely a common factor. The collegiate-style curriculum of the Scottish Rite can easily be described as a University system within which BGLOs thrive. The character and determination required to complete a collegiate education must be of a high caliber to meet the rigorous demands of the educational system. Is this also not the case for the Scottish Rite whose Degrees, in actuality, are collegiate level courses on the specific areas of focus? The Rite, being diverse, is a conclave of like-minded individuals who have completed their coursework, at a minimum, through 32 Degrees of knowledge. With this in mind, the kindred spirit between the BGLO and the Scottish Rite, if stoked, can create a blaze that is wide enough to encompass all and create synergy that can be use for mutual improvement at a larger scale.

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George B. Kelley



Ezra Alexander



Ernest E. Just



Edgar A. Love



Frank Coleman



A. Langston Taylor

Elevation is Not a Trophy

Elevation to higher ranks is considered a great honor to men with service at heart. For those who see it for what it actually is, they have a greater understanding of its purpose. Elevation is not a trophy. It is, in fact, the acceptance of a higher level of responsibilities.

I have served as Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Auditor in the Grand Lodge to which I belong and have come to understand that the salutations afforded are representative of graduated levels of responsibility. For example, a brother can only be styled Worshipful Brother if he has served as Worshipful Master of a Lodge. "Right" is added for those who have been elevated to perform specific responsibilities at the Grand Lodge level. "Most" replaces "Right" for those who have been elevated to the highest level of accountability for the organization.

For clarification, it is important to note that there is a difference between a responsibility (micro) and an accountability (macro) for an organization. Responsibility is one's ability to respond appropriately to a specific set of circumstances for a section of an account or plan. The ability of the manager to ensure fulfillment of the entire account is accountability. As a Right Worshipful Brother, countless hours of service were necessary to fulfill the various responsibilities associated with the elevation in rank. Much of this work went unseen but their lack of fulfillment would have negatively impacted the organization. As such, "Right" or "revered" is appropriate because of the importance of the labor required to conclude it. Self-accountability at the micro level produced the expected results.

Needless to say, it is common for

Worshipful Brothers at all levels to experience sleepless nights and endure uncomfortable situations in the name of service. The Most Worshipful Brother is the account manager who bears the entire burden though. Consider that when a Grand Lodge is not in session, the Grand Master is **fully accountable** for the corporation to all external entities. After all, taxes must be filed with the appropriate local, state and federal agencies for the corporation. The Chief Financial Officer (Grand Treasurer) may **respond** with assistance but the Grand Master must ensure the account is squared away. In cases of lawsuits, the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary will find their names on the complaint. While the Grand Secretary **responds** from a communications perspective, the Grand Master is actually the chief defender who must manage the crisis. So the crown can clearly become heavy with the full weight of accountability on its bearer. Hence, the nature of the salutations.

The salutations of the Scottish Rite prior to 1966 aligned similarly. The French term "Puissant" was used to denote power and the teachings of the 32nd Degree speak to the execution of power responsibly. The concepts of liberty, equality and fraternity promote the degree of equity between the terms "leader" and "servant". This can be measured in the degrees of the responses.

In order for one to effectively respond and commit their abilities to a purpose, a clear vision must be laid. The vision defines the account at the macro level so that individuals can respond appropriately to micro-level missions. Movement from the responses helps to define success because it is the movement that affirms power which is force in

action. So the director of the vision was not only "Puissant" but "Most Puissant". However, an amendment to the USC Constitution and General Laws in 1966 removed the "Puissant" salutations placing a focus on the salutation of "Sovereign".

One who has received the 33rd Degree becomes a Grand Inspector General, an honorary member of the USC. "Sovereign" is added for those who have been elevated from honorary to actual membership which commits them to respond to a higher level of duties in the Rite. Only Sovereign Grand Inspectors General may gain by election to higher office and only one member may become the Sovereign Grand Commander who holds full accountability for the Holy Empire.

Additionally, the salutation of "Illustrious" is also associated with actual and honorary members of the United Supreme Council (USC) along with Commanders-In-Chief of local Consistories. It means "admired for past deeds". "Most" is added for leaders who have been deputized to oversee Orients of the USC. As such, a Deputy or Overseer of an Orient is the "Most Illustrious Commander-In-Chief" of that Orient who reports to the Sovereign Grand Commander.

An enormous weight lies upon the crown of the Sovereign Grand Commander. The management of the Holy Empire is multi-faceted and international in scope with many moving parts. Success is measured by the responses to the missions that align with the vision that has been presented. Hence, the crown of the Sovereign Grand Commandery is a visionary's crown. It is distinguished from all others not as a trophy but as a signet of one who has accepted **full accountability** for the Holy Empire.

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

Orient of Alaska



***Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Clifford Hastings, 33°
Deputy for the Orient***

2021 has produced a year for the history books for the United Supreme Council. COVID caused hardship for so many, and one must take time to reflect and thank God for bringing us through this time of strife. The challenges facing the Rite may have been numerous but they pale in comparison to the life and death struggles of people around the world.



Alaska is off the beaten path so we rarely have the opportunity to see a Historically Black College and University visit to play. The Winston-Salem State University Women's Basketball team travelled to Alaska to play the University of Alaska Anchorage team. This was a back-to-back game format, as they were part of a women and

men's tournament. Several members of the Orient had the pleasure of meeting with the head Coach L'Tona Lamonte, and it was a joy for us to see her leadership of the young women. This was a concerted effort of Alaskan African American organizations to come out and support this HBCU, and share our community spirit with them while they were thousands of miles from their home.



We also had the opportunity to become acquainted with the Director of Athletics Ms. Etienne Thomas, and were able to share experiences with her. Again there was a black woman out front leading the way, and her leadership was evident as everyone who was attached to the team in any way conducted themselves in a positive manner. Our members were also able to mix and mingle with the family and chaperones that travelled with the team. We had the chance to mingle with their supporters and show what the Orient was all about and discuss the

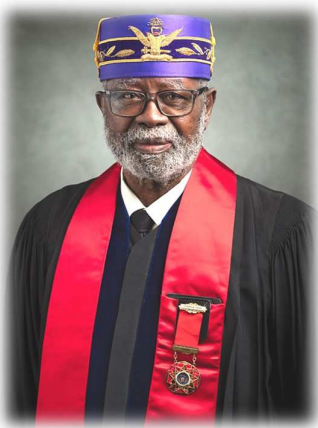


black experience in Alaska, and we surprised them with the strength of our community, as they didn't know what to expect when they disembarked from the plane. We made new friends and had a great time in the stands with them while whole heartedly helping to cheer for their team. This was especially inspiring for the young minority boys and girls to see an African American team, staff and fans being out front and successful. This was a special treat for them to see a school whose motto is: "Enter To Learn. Depart To Serve."

The Orient of Alaska had the pleasure of congratulating the Honorable Derrick R. Flowers, 33°, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of Alaska. He was honored to become a Sovereign Grand Inspector General at the 45th Triennial of the USC, AASR, PHA, Southern Jurisdiction. He was surprised and overjoyed to be so honored. This makes him the second MWGM of Alaska to be so honored by the Southern Juris.; the first was the 24th MWGM Timothy Mullins.



Orient of Canada



***Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Frederick Ofofu, 33rd
Overseer for the Orient***

The 2021 Annual Council of Deliberation presided by the Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief S.G.I.G. Carlisle N. Blackett was held on September 26 by Zoom. Also present were Hon. Curtis Welch who is the MWGM of the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Province of Ontario and Jurisdiction, as well as the following Officers of the Council of Deliberation for Eastern Canada: S.G.I.G. Frederick Ofofu, First Lieutenant Commander, and Assistant to the Deputy for Eastern Canada; G.I. G. Tyrone Edwards, Treasurer; S.G.I.G. Reginal R. Brothers, Grand Secretary; G.I.G. Jeffery Foster, the Illustrious Commander-in-Chief of Beaver Consistory Number 74; SP Lesley O'Brien, the Illustrious Commander-in-Chief of Mount Royal Consistory Number 97 and 10 other GIGs and Fraters from the Orient of Eastern Canada. The small number of Fraters attending this COD reflects our Fraters' unfamiliarity with the Zoom

platform. The Council of Deliberation was pleased to welcome S.G.I.G. Illustrious Edward M. Brooks II, Secretary General of the Holy Empire to this Zoom meeting and we are most grateful to Illustrious Brooks for his message of encouragement.

Our Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief had major difficulty while reading his Allocution and it turned out that Illustrious Blackett was gravely ill when we met. The Grand Architect of the Universe called S.G.I.G. Blackett from labor to his eternal reward on December 12, 2021 and he was laid to rest on December 17, 2021. From his family, some of our Fraters have learnt that Illustrious Blackett graduated from Oxford University in the United Kingdom and moved to Canada in 1967. He subsequently joined the Federal Civil Service as a Chartered Accountant and became a Senior Auditor at Revenue Canada (the equivalent of the IRS in the U. S. A.) where he had a stellar carrier as evidenced from two Canadian Prime Ministers (Right Honorable Jean Chretien and Right Honorable Stephen Harper) recognizing Illustrious Blackett's decades of meritorious service at Revenue Canada.

Illustrious Blackett became a Master Mason in the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Province of Ontario and Jurisdiction, served as a RW Grand Junior Warden. Illustrious Blackett also served as the Auditor for his Grand Lodge for several years. He was a charter member of Beaver Consistory Number 74 and after moving from Toronto to

Ottawa, he became a charter member of Mount Royal Consistory Number 97. Illustrious Blackett was elevated to the Thirty-third and Last Degree in 1979 and was Crowned Sovereign Grand Inspector General in 1996. He was also appointed as Illustrious Deputy of the Orient of Eastern Canada in 1996, a position he held until his demise. While serving as Deputy of the Orient of Eastern Canada, he also ably served on numerous boards and committees of the United Supreme Council.



A careful review of his life as man and a Mason reveals a kind, generous, and forgiving individual. Illustrious Blackett was a loving and devoted husband for 62 years, a loving father of four, and an amazing grandfather whose grandchildren adored him. Fraters of our Orient have lost a man who easily demonstrated the best attributes of a devoted Mason. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

Orient of Connecticut



***Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Edward Cherry, 33°
Deputy for the Orient***

In spite of the world wide Covid-19 Pandemic, the Orient of Connecticut has continued to operate on a limited basis by fully following the Covid-19 safety guidelines as established by state and local protocols, including “common sense”. The 128th Annual Session of the Connecticut Council of Deliberation convened in-person on November 20, 2021 at the Hartog Activity Building at Ashlar Village in Wallingford, with Illustrious Deputy Edward E. Cherry, 33° presiding as the Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief with New Haven Consistory #7 as the Host Consistory.

One of the highlights of this 128th Session was to welcome and receive

SGIG Arnold L. Holmes, 33°, the recently elected and installed Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Connecticut and his principal officers and the Honorable William E. Bohman, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A.F.&A.M. of Connecticut (bottom left). Both were received in the East with honors due their stations.

The Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief also happily welcomed Loyal Lady Nancy A. Simms, newly installed as the Connecticut State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler who was accompanied by her Cabinet along with Loyal Lady Rulers of New Haven Assembly #42 Laverne Jenkins and Judy Simpson of Leslie I. Duncan Assembly #74. Illustrious Prior Steve Godfrey offered a prayer for the passing of MWGM Lewis Myrick, 32°, Ill Robert Horn, 33°, Ill. Henry Gilliam, 33°, and Ill Levi Roper, 33°. All were well known in their communities and strong supporters of Ancient Craft and Scottish Rite Masonry. They will be sorely missed.

This year the Council was more than pleased to award the Benevolent Fund Educational Grant of \$1,000.00 to Ms.



Kiarra Zane Gamble of Hartford, CT a student at the University of Hartford. She is an Acolyte at Bethel A.M.E. Church; a member of the church’s Praise Team and also a member of the JAM/JDC dance group at Bethel Church. She is a Criminal Justice Major with law school as her graduate degree goal.

Another highlight of the 128th Session of the Council of Deliberation was the awarding of the Deputy’s Resolution of Tribute Award to Ill James H. Gatling, 33°, who in addition to serving Scottish Rite Masonry as the Recording Secretary of New Haven Consistory, is a member of the Editorial Board of the Council of Deliberation’s website; and Co-chairman of the Council’s Strategic Planning Committee. His chronology of good works for more than 42 years follows the mission of New Opportunities for Waterbury, the Community Action Agency—“To improve the quality of for economically disadvantaged individuals by providing resources to increase their standards of living, foster self-improvement”. How well this goal was accomplished was evident on October 13, 2021 by the community of professional, community organizations such as the Prince Hall Masons, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and individuals from



from Greater Waterbury, Meriden and Torrington. All attended the celebration to honor and recognize his service and witness the renaming of NOW Community Service Building to “The Dr. James H. Gatling Community Service Building”.

Three members from the Orient of Connecticut answered the call to become Charter Life Members of the United Supreme Council (USC)—Ill James H. Gatling, SGIG Charles M. Paris and Ill Josephus B. Ballenger, Jr. After full review and report by the Commanders of the Rite in the Valleys of New Haven and Hartford, the Council approved Sublime Princes Rev. Steve Godfrey and Keith Pullen as members of the USC’s Class of 2023. In addition to their community service, both are well known as workers of the Ancient Craft as well as Scottish Rite Masonry.

MICIC Cherry noted the appointment of Past State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Isabella Wendley to the newly formed USC’s Loyal Ladies of the Golden Circle Working Group. We wish her and the Working Group great success in carrying out its noble goals. He was also pleased to report the appointment of SP Arnold Feaster to the USC’s Veteran’s Resource Committee. He is a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Navy’s Submarine Service. His committee is formed to inform and educate Veterans and their families on the many benefits for which they may be eligible.

In December of 2021 more than 100 guests joined Eastern President Elsa Nunez to recognize Dr. David G. Carter’s leadership and contributions to Eastern University in the naming of the state of the art Science building at Eastern Connecticut State University “The David G. Carter Science Building” for trailblazing educator Dr. David G. Carter. The fifth president serving from 1988 to 2005, member of Composite Lodge #22 and Grand Inspector General of Hartford



Consistory #80, Carter was the first Black to lead a four year institution of higher learning in Connecticut and in New England. He retired in 2011 as Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System, and passed away in March 2018. In the naming ceremony he was extolled as a “genius” by President Nunez. In his address honoring Dr. Carter, Honorable Justice Lubbie Harper said that “it is fitting that this remarkable and modern Science Building is a monument to a man who literally helped to build and transform Eastern’s campus. “This is a tangible expression of remembrance, a permanent and concrete expression of respect and gratitude by the university community that he held so dear.” SGIG Floyd Bagwell, 33° stated that Ill Carter “was a beloved member of Hartford 80 who shared his skills as an educator to facilitate Masonic study sessions in the Consistory.”

In a January in-person meeting, New Haven Assembly #42 elected LL Naomi Campbell elected as its new Loyal Lady Ruler. Her goals for New Haven included efforts to increase membership and support the senior citizens at the St. Luke Senior Apartments located just across the street from the historic Goffe Street Special School. Several of the Ladies also remain very active in community health services.

In his Allocution, the Most Illustrious

Commander-in-Chief Edward Cherry paid honor to our Dear and Illustrious Henry Gilliam, Robert Horn, Lewis Myrick and Levi Roper who passed since we last met as a Council; he addressed the State of the Rite where “peace and harmony” prevails within the Orient; in his note on the State of the Union he opined that because of national unrest including blatant racism in many areas of our country, peace and harmony does not prevail at this time. He congratulated the USC Class of 2021 on their elevation to the rank of Honorary Members of the United Supreme Council; the newly elected members of the Class of 2023; LL Nancy Sims on her election as the Sate Grand Loyal Lady Ruler and SGIG Arnold Holmes on his election as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

In his closing remarks he hoped and challenged the Illustrious Commanders -in-Chief to use their roles leaders in the true sense of the word and not as figure heads, and to master the administrative activities of their office; he closed his Allocution with the cheering assurance the Brethren of the Orient will do their utmost to continue our Community Outreach, Strengthen our Education Programs, Establish Financial Sustainability and Secure the Future by Enhancing the Scottish Rite Experience.

Orient of Delaware



**Sovereign Grand Inspector General
James A. Scott, 33rd
Deputy for the Orient**

The Orient of Delaware held its 131st. Council of Deliberations on October 30, 2021. It was a challenge to schedule because of the COVID and internal Jurisdiction events. After several schedules, it was held as a virtual session. The Council of Deliberation was hosted by C.P. Houston Consistory No. 119, Illustrious Commander in Chief Grand Inspector General Johnie Burton, and his officers. The Order of the Golden Circle Grand Assembly headed by SGLLR Sandra Floyd held its Grand Session at the same time virtually. An extremely well attended Session. We had the pleasure of the Most Worshipful Grand Master in attendance. The Most Illustrious Commander in Chief SGIG James A. Scott was received and after appropriate administrative actions, respect was paid in a Memorial service for those who passed during the Masonic year. Numerous awards and scholarships were presented during the virtual session. The Valley of Wilmington, Overseer Grand Inspector General George B. Winston, III was selected as the Valley of the Year with Corinthian Consistory No. 5

being the Consistory of the Year led by Sublime Prince Larry Marin. The Order of the Golden Circle Assembly of the Year was Dover Assembly No. 96, led by Loyal Lady Ruler Sandria Johnson.

AWARDS—Corinthian Consistory No. 5 was given a monetary award by the Council of Deliberation for its Scholarship fund for winning the Consistory of the Year. C.P. Houston was runner-up for Consistory of the Year and was awarded funds by the Council of Deliberation for its Scholarship fund. The awards were motivation for our Consistories to continue their efforts for youth scholarships. Each Delaware Consistory recently developed a scholarship program and in 2021 each Consistory awarded at least one Scholarship. In the follow-on articles, the names of the recipients will be identified. We are very grateful to the United Supreme Council Benevolent Foundation for contributions to the education of our youth. The Orient of Delaware was able to contribute 3 additional education awards because of the contribution made by the United Supreme Council Benevolent Foundation. Recipients sent words of thanks:

"Thank you to the United Supreme Council for the scholarship. This means the world to me, as it makes the financial load of college a little easier. Thank you again for your generosity." - Sidney Stewart, Louisville

"Thank You!!" - Kayla Harmon, Delaware State Univ

A new award was presented during the Council of Deliberations. The **SERVICE BEFORE SELF** Award was presented to Past State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler (PSLLR) Delores Benson-Jackson. A well-deserved award. PSGLLR Benson-Jackson

served on the Order of the Golden Circle (OGC) Working Group and assisted in development and clarification of OGC rules and guidelines. During that time she had to attend to some personal issues, yet she was called upon to Chair the OGC Scholarship Committee. She served with distinction and ensured that all data was received timely. The Deputy presented the Award during the Virtual session.



DEPUTY'S AWARD—During the Deputy's Allocution, he surprised 4 Fraters who were presented the Deputy's Award by members of their family during the Zoom virtual session. The Deputy prearranged the presentations and the following Fraters were awarded the Deputy's Award. The Fraters joined a group of vetted Fraters by receiving the award. Receiving the Deputy Award was Dr. PCIC Lawrence Carter, 33; Overseer of the Valley of Milton, GIG, PGM Frederick Duffy, 33; Assistant Keeper of the Seal, COD GIG William Duffy, 33 and Overseer for the Valley of Dover, GIG Wilbur Justice, 33.

CHANGES IN THE ORIENT—Deputy Scott has reorganized the Orient of Delaware. The Orient is now separated by Valleys, and each Valley has an Overseer appointed to assist with the AASR work of the



is overseen by GIG George B. Winston, III, the Valley of Dover is overseen by GIG Wilbur Justice and the Valley of Milton is overseen by GIG, PGM Frederick Duffy, 33. Each Valley has an operating Consistory and Assembly. The Commanders of the Rite is across all three Valleys. Two new organizations have been created within the last several months within the Orient to support the membership and their endeavors in Scottish Rite masonry, as well as to support our jurisdictional Ancient Craft Lodges. With the guidance and advice of the Deputy of Illinois, SGIG Melvin Frierson, Delaware has established the Herbert C. Norris Eagles Club. Past Deputy and Past Grand Master Norris is remembered as a social Mason and of good character. The officers of the new club are moving and their first event will be a Jazz Sip during the Council of Deliberation.

In addition, the Orient of Delaware has, with the assistance and advice of USC Deputy at Large, SGIG Edward B. Darnell, established the John T. Luke/Edward B. Darnell Chapter of the Phylaxis Society. Both RW Luke and SGIG Darnell are scholars of Masonic history and the officers of the Chapter look forward to continuing their names in the history of Masonic research and education. Deputy Scott has rewritten and clarified the AASR protocol for Delaware to support and compliment the Delaware

Jurisdictions protocol. The protocol pamphlet will be distributed soon.

PROFILE IN COURAGE 50 plus YEARS OF SERVICE



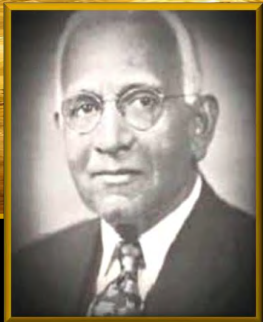
ICIC James A. Scott, 32, 1972

It was a great day on 26 June, 2021 at the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Session of Delaware when the Grand Master called SGIG, RW James A. Scott, 33 to the altar and presented him with a 50 year Pin for service to the Masonic fraternity. Most Worshipful Grand Master Isacce Morris stated that "normally after 50 years of anything, most people want to slow down or quit, but not RW Scott. He is still serving and as you know, he is our Deputy of the Orient. He has served for over 50 years and gave me all of the details of that service." SGIG Scott has served four Masonic Jurisdictions, Massachusetts, Washington State, Maryland and Delaware. After serving a tour in Viet-Nam, he joined the Washington State Jurisdiction and was elected as the youngest Commander in Chief on record in

AASR Masonry. He served 3 years as ICIC of Keystone Consistory. During that time Keystone was the only Consistory in the Far East, and became a power house. The United Supreme Council (USC) Sovereign Grand Commander, Frank M. Summers, 33 presented Prince Scott the USC Trophy which Keystone Consistory retired for elevating the most brothers of any Consistory over a 3 year period of time. After a 10 year wait to receive his 33rd degree because of not meeting the age requirement, SGIG Scott was invited to become a member of the USC 100 year Centennial Class of 1981 by Sovereign Grand Commander Russell S. Gideon.

After the Far East military assignment, SGIG Scott served on US Presidential duty in Washington DC. where he joined Corinthian Consistory No. 5 in Wilmington Delaware. He worked with both the Northern and Southern AASR Jurisdictions, Maryland, District of Columbia and Delaware. As faith had it, GIG Scott was assigned to the Country of Turkey. Upon notification, the current Deputy of the Orient of Delaware and Turkey, SGIG Herbert C. Norris appointed GIG Scott, 33 as the Overseer for the country of Turkey where he regenerated Karamursel Consistory in Ankara Turkey and maintained the Charter. After a 30 year Military career, a Civil Service career and private business development, SGIG Scott continues to serve.





The Sovereign Grand Commanders Illustrious Dr. Sumner

“Did you ever realize that the worst thing that ever happened to you can be the best thing that ever happened to you, if you do not let it get the best of you? For it is a fool, indeed, that does not profit by experience.”—Sumner A. Furniss

Sumner A. (Alexander) Furniss (1874–1953) was born in Jackson, Mississippi, where he lived the first six years of his life. He was named after Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts, a staunch advocate against Slavery. Illustrious Furniss spent his youth in Indianapolis, Indiana and graduated from Indianapolis High School. Afterward, he attended the University of Missouri, but left 1 year prior to graduation. He returned to Indianapolis and began studying medicine as an understudy of Dr. E.S. Elder, a White doctor.

To help pay for his education he worked as a stenographer and private secretary. At the same time young Furniss subsequently enrolled in and graduated second in a class of 54 from the Medical College of Indiana (which later became a part of Purdue University) in March 1894. He was the only Negro in the class. As a result of his extreme scholarship, he was the recipient of the Badger Prize due to his superior mastery of medical examination, concepts, theories, and practice. Subsequent to his graduation, the newly minted Dr. Furniss became the first Negro intern at Indianapolis City Hospital. He won the right to be appointed by placing first among 14 in a competitive examination.



He was an early member and state vice president of the National Medical Association (NMA). It was formed because the American Medical Association (AMA) would not admit Negroes. However, he later became a member of the AMA as well. He was also a member of the Indiana Medical Society. He opened his own practice in 1896, which he shared with his older brother, Dr. Henry W. (Watson) Furniss. These experiences played a large part in him helping to establish Lincoln Hospital (left) in 1909—the first “colored” hospital in Indianapolis of which he later became president and surgeon-in-chief. Sadly, due to the climate at the time it closed in June 1915.

The Furniss brothers also shared duties with the Indianapolis Mutual Benefit Association which offered a form of medical insurance. The elder Dr. Furniss served as the president and the younger Dr. Furniss served as the medical examiner. Sumner also belonged to the Indianapolis Board of Health and the Indianapolis Board of Health and, for years, was a leader in the affairs of Blacks and was a prominent figure in the community. A few of his civic engagements included President of the Indianapolis chapter of the National Negro Business League; Charter member and first president of the Senate Avenue YMCA; President of the Herculean Club; President of the Central Republican League; President of the Marion County League of Republican Clubs (1896); and Executive committee member of the National Citizen’s Business League. He was appointed as a member of the Marion County Executive Committee in February 1900. Love, fate and political advancement did not evade Dr. Furniss or his brother. On October 26, 1904, Dr. Furniss married his lovely bride, Lillian L. Morris (right) of Louisville, Kentucky. He also served as a caretaker to his mother, Elizabeth J. Furniss (néé Williams), who passed away from a heart attack on November 4, 1909 after a long illness. At this time, Illustrious Henry W. Furniss was serving as Consul General in Haiti while the funeral their mother was held at the home of Dr. Furniss. Despite the loss, Dr. Furniss pushed forward with great intensity in the political arena.



Surprising for modern times, but common in his day, Sumner was a registered member of the Republican Party and a delegate-at-large for the Republican National Convention held in Chicago in 1912. He was an alternate for former Vice President Charles W. Fairbanks, a Scottish Rite Mason himself. He was elected to the Indianapolis City Council in 1917–1921 and was elected as a full delegate to the convention in 1918. His civic

of the United Supreme Council, AASR, NJ, PHA

Alexander Furniss, 33°

Part
One

efforts found him and his brother included in *Who's Who In Colored America* for a number of years. He was also an early member of the Flanner House Board of Directors and was bestowed lifetime membership for this charitable organization.

In June 1918, he took part in a magnificent gathering of quite a few of the top Black thought leaders of his day. At the behest of the War Department and the Committee on Public Information, Emmett Jay Scott, Special Assistant to the Secretary of



War, Newton D. Baker, a call was made to many prominent Negro newspaper owners/editors/reporters and leading businessmen to convene in Washington, DC to discuss how they intended to cover and support the involvement of Negroes in World War I. Resultant from these deliberations, one Black journalist was chosen to be the Negro war correspondent—Ralph Waldo Tyler. This gathering was reminiscent of modern-day Bilderberger meetings. The picture (top) illustrates the serious nature of the event by those who attended. It shows a pantheon of Prince Hall Freemasonry and progressive, prominent, famous, and infamous Black men of which Brother Furniss was a part including P.B.S. Pinchback, former Governor of Louisiana; Emmett Jay Scott, Assistant to the Secretary of War; Dr. R. R. Moten, Principal of Tuskegee Institute; W.E.B. DuBois, Editor, *The Crisis*; Dr. Ernest Lyon, Consul General, Republic of Liberia; George L. Knox, Editor, *Indianapolis Freeman*; John H. Murphy Sr., Editor, *Afro American*, Baltimore; John Mitchell Jr., Banker and Editor of the *Richmond Planet*; Robert S. Abbott, Editor, *Chicago Defender*; Dr. Henry M. Minton, General Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Harry C. Smith, Editor, *The Gazette*, Cleveland, Ohio; W.L. Houston, Past Grand Master, Grand United Order of Odd Fellows; Dr. Sumner A. Furniss, The Ledger/*Indianapolis City Council*; R.L. Vann, Editor, *Pittsburg Courier*; Captain Arthur S. Spingarn, Medical Reserve Corps, U.S. Army; and F.R. Moore, Editor, *New York Age*.

Brother Furniss was a member of Central Lodge No. 1 and began very young in Freemasonry, most likely after college. Very unique among men who served as Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander is that the record does not seem to reflect that Illustrious Furniss ever served as a Worshipful Master of a Lodge. There is also no record of any Order of the Eastern Star or York Rite membership for him. However, he did participate abundantly in the Scottish Rite. What is certain is that Masonic hierarchy (in that day) required that to be a member of the Scottish Rite one must have belonged to either a Shrine Temple or a Knights Templar Commandery. In order to be a member of a Knights Templar Commandery one must have held membership in a Royal Arch Chapter. There is no evidence of either membership in his fraternal journey. That is not to say he did not belong, only that the records are not extant currently.

Brother Furniss was Advanced to the degree of Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret on Tuesday, March 30, 1897. It did not take long for him to be pressed into service. In late December 1898, he was elected as the Illustrious Commander-in-Chief of Constantine Consistory No. 14. This Consistory was originally organized by John G. Jones in May 1895 prior to his suspension from the Scottish Rite later that year in October. This implies an air of legitimacy to its creation. However, an unauthorized Council of Royal & Select Masters



had also been organized at the same time by Jones which is an indication that his work in both houses was unfounded. His meddling also created a bogus Scottish Rite body under which Constantine held fealty.

Sublime Prince Furniss served as Commander-in-Chief through 1902. During his second year of service, Jones, made a special trip to the Valley of Indianapolis to confer the Thirty-third and Last Degree upon him on Thursday, October 28, 1899. Subsequent to his service as Commander-in-Chief, he served as the Most Wise and Perfect Master, King Solomon Rose Croix Chapter and as the Secretary of all the coordinate bodies as each met separately. His activity level reflected that of a man on the move. Illustrious Furniss was appointed Deputy of the Orient of Indiana during the Annual Session of the John G. Jones Supreme Council held in New Orleans, Louisiana, in October 1910, and thus became an Active member. During that same session he was appointed to a committee charged with securing funds to purchase land to build a nursing/retirement home for members of the Supreme Grand Court of Daughters of Sphinx. This involvement foretells future happenings in this area. In one of his last acts as Deputy for the Orient, he turned over the money collected for annual dues, and submitted the annual returns to his Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander and reported that Constantine Consistory No. 14 "...was in good condition." Then, in April 1911, he wrote to then-Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander Robert H. Hucless 33° with the information that he was the leader of at least 150 Fraters who desired to practice Scottish Rite Freemasonry legitimately. Diligence coupled with perseverance resulted in the group's formal petition for membership to The United Supreme

Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Thirty Third Degree of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America (USC NJ), being returned in the affirmative.

Help with re-organizing the men (administering the Oath of Fealty) came from then-Puissant Lieutenant Grand Commander James F. Rickards 33°. Due to these efforts, Constantine Consistory No. 14, Valley of Indianapolis, Orient of Indiana was rechartered as Constantine Consistory No. 25, Valley of Indianapolis, Orient of Indiana under the aegis of the USC NJ in May 1911.

Illustrious Furniss was immediately reappointed as the Deputy of the Orient. The next year he assisted in organizing Malta Consistory No. 34, Valley of Terre Haute, Orient of Indiana. It is safe to state that he was the catalyst for the establishment and spread of legitimate Prince Hall Scottish Rite Masonry in Indiana.

Sometime in the 1890s Brother Furniss was created a Noble of the Mystic Shrine in Persian Temple (which had also been organized by John G. Jones in December 1893). Noble Furniss served as Illustrious Potentate, but the year is unclear. He also served as the Illustrious Recorder for quite a few years.

Around the same time as he sought to transfer the men he led in the Scottish Rite to a legitimate organization, he did the same for those in his Temple. In 1911, Noble Furniss had been in contact with the then-Imperial Recorder, Noble John Murphy Sr. about transferring his Temple, Persian Temple, to the new organization. His prayer was answered in the affirmative.

In August 1911 he, and his brother became charter members of Persian Temple No. 46 when it transferred its allegiance from the John G. Jones

organization. He served as the Temple's first Illustrious Recorder. A short time later he severed as Secretary to the General Committee overseeing the preparations for hosting the Imperial Council session in the Oasis of Indianapolis in 1913. He was appointed to a number of other positions but most notably served as the Deputy of the Desert for Indiana. No doubt in part to his hard charging, trailblazing, and extremely involved nature, Illustrious Furniss was duly elected and installed as the Illustrious Grand Minister of State in May 1914 during the 33rd Annual Session (11th Triennium) held in the Valley of Philadelphia, Orient of Pennsylvania. The 35th Annual Session of the USC NJ, was held in the Valley of Indianapolis, Orient of Indiana in May 1916, at his suggestion. Subsequent to Puissant Lieutenant Grand Commander Richard E. Moore 33° stepping down from his position at the 39th Annual Session (13th Triennium) held in the Valley of Philadelphia in May 1920, Illustrious Furniss was elected to fill that station. In the wake of the passing of Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander James F. Rickards 33° in October 1921, and by virtue of the language in the Constitution and General Regulations, he became the Acting Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander. He enjoyed a rapid promotion with virtually no opportunity to let grass grow beneath his feet. Shortly thereafter, in February 1922, he was depicted on the second issue of The Bulletin. Ever the involved man and Freemason, he somehow managed to find the time to squeeze in involvement with other fraternal groups. He and seven others formed





formed a graduate chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (Iota Lambda) in Indianapolis in April 1922. Brother Furniss is on the left, inside of the Phi (top).

Prior to his formal installation as the conservator of Prince Hall Scottish Rite freemasonry in the Northern Jurisdiction Illustrious Furniss was honored at a dinner in March 1923 sponsored by his Constantine

Consistory in recognition of his ascension a year-and-a-half prior. In April 1923, he hosted his fraternity Chapter's first anniversary dinner. The very next month he was duly elected and installed as the 10th Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander in May 1923 at the 42nd Annual Session (14th Triennium) held in the Valley of Philadelphia. He is the youngest to ever be elected to that position and

the first Sovereign Grand Commander to hail from the Orient of Indiana.

Sources:

- *The Bulletin*
- *History of the United Supreme Council, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc. 1881-1998.*
- *Proceedings of the Thirteenth Annual Session of the Imperial Council Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine North and South America*
- *The Sphinx, Official Organ of the Alpha Phi Fraternity*
- *United Supreme Council, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, P.H.A., Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc. 100th Anniversary*
- *Happy, Richard and Diane Furniss Happy. An Improbable Journey: The Story of Dr. Henry Watson Furniss*
- *Happy, Richard and Diane Furniss Happy. Under the Radar: The Little Known Story of Dr. Henry Watson Furniss: An African-American Pioneer*
- *History of the Shrine: Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Inc. (Prince Hall Affiliated): A Pillar of Black Society, 1893-1993*
- *Minutes Book, United Supreme Council, AASR, NJ, PHA, 1879 to 1921*
- *Indianapolis Recorder*
- *Indianapolis Freeman*



OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL NEGRO BUSINESS LEAGUE, AT INDIANAPOLIS IN 1904.

Dr. Sumner A. Furniss (standing—1st of the left); Booker T. Washington (seated—3rd from the right)

Orient of Europe



**Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Enrique John, 33°
Deputy for the Orient**

Greetings from the Orient of Europe Council of Deliberation community. I'm humbled that we are blessed to enter into yet another year and strive to put the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic behind us and address our future. Every Frater of Orient of Europe has worked hard over the past year and we were able to conduct virtual and hybrid meetings throughout the fraternal year, which was a major achievement and something to celebrate. Our leadership team, with member support, has strived to ensure we have the right programs, staff, and resources to build and move the district to the next level of success. We all know it is critical that the Orient implements health and safety protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. And over the past few months, state education and health officials have worked to draft another resiliency framework for public school districts that shifts to a more traditional, local decision-making model. The Orient has fulfilled the requirement of having the safety protocols, following statewide quarantine and isolation protocols, mandating use of face coverings, and providing a process to support Fraters and their families within their respective communities. Through it all, we remain confident that the future will bring brighter days and continue to work diligently to build this district through strong bonds of brotherhood and leadership.

**Karamursel
Consistory No. 96
CIC—Louie Nunag, 32°**

It is with honor and privilege for me to be trusted to head Karamursel Consistory No. 96 beyond my expectations, but rest assured, I will perform to the best of my capability. Karamursel has a great start as I witnessed balanced programs to sustain its operation—always taking care of his members and doing the best to educate and train future leaders. With that being said, I as the new Commander in Chief, have nothing much to do but to improve and innovate all existing programs and enhance to meet our goals by first, providing continuous education to all members. Second, charitable acts should begin within ourselves, making sure that all members are being monitored and assisted in times of need and to look back on community to extend our blessing to the needy. In conclusion, my focus this year is to educate and be educated with the true Masonic virtues, to serve and to perform charitable acts to the best of our resources.

**Spain Military
Consistory No. 99**

CIC—Stephen Harrison, 32°
I've been traveling my Masonic career for 12yrs. I've been a Scottish Rite Mason for 12yrs. I am a US Army Veteran who transitioned to be a DA Contracted Police Officer and Personal Security Detail Officer. At Present, I am the Military Police Senior Desk Sergeant on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. I am continuously serving our community and safeguarding our nation's freedom. Prior to serving as Worshipful Master, I was appointed the Tyler and elected the Junior Warden. I was elected to the position of 2nd Lt. Commander and then elected Commander in Chief, where I currently serve. While working with Scottish Rite, I have held Bowling Tournaments, Food Drives, Scholarship Fund Raisers and the Trunk or Treat for the local community in Kuwait. In other bodies



I have served as a member and fully support the male and female organizations. As a member of the Temple, I was elected the High Priest and Prophet and I am moving towards the position of Illustrious Potentate. I am continuing to strive for excellence. This year has been extremely challenging due to the lack of membership in country and the COVID-19 pandemic. So, my primary focus is to sustain the Consistory with the current members in country as well as members afar by keeping them engaged so that, they look forward to fellowship regardless of our current situation. This is attainable through knowledge from the educational committee that our Commanders of the Rite embark on us every quarter. We also utilize our knowledgeable Fraters here in country and stateside. Due to the COVID restrictions and guidelines, it has been a challenge to bring more committed Brethren into the Scottish Rite, but through determination and awareness, we will find a way to increase membership.

**Booker T. Alexander
Consistory #117
CIC—Reiss J. Byrd**

GIG Reiss J. Byrd, 33° was introduced to Scottish Rite Masonry in the Orient of Europe in 2011 by SGIG James Lavender, 33°, GIG Howard Martin, 33°, and SP Darryl Pruett, 32°. This advancement was a life-changing experience which continues to allow me to grow daily. Regarding the Consistory, our focus is on training by Zoom or hands-on. We now have School of Instruction which started with a workshop on "Who is who in the USC N.J.". The next workshop will be on the "Orient" and hands-on ritualistic training will resume for the Lodge of Perfection, Rose Croix, and Consistory. Training like this will help us improve. The pace here in European countries has become rapid with units deploying longer and, at different times during the year, it can hinder training. So zoom workshops can aid in that void. We do hope you are there to join in the workshops.



Orient of the Far East



**Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Charles Bush, 33°
Deputy for the Orient**

On Saturday, April 9, 2021, the Orient of the Far East convened its 51st Annual Council of Deliberation (COD) virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This marks the first time that the conference was held in a virtual video teleconference format. After a prayer was rendered by G.I.G. Kenneth Williams, 33°, Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief Charles H. Bush, Jr. 33° opened the COD, received and acknowledged all Sovereign Grand Inspectors General (S.G.I.G.), and conducted roll call of officers. With a quorum being established, Most Illustrious Bush declared the COD officially opened. Afterwards, he recognized all Grand Inspectors General (G.I.G) and Sublime Princes (S.P.), and fraters serving in esteemed positions representing Ancient Craft Masonry, the York Rite, and the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine. In attendance were a total of 53 voting members and over 100 fraters and guests.

Most Illustrious Bush continued with the business of the COD. He began by polling the membership

for those that were sick, shut in, and/or in distress. Several fraters asked the body to keep themselves as well as others in their prayers. G.I.G. Wilburt L. Key, Jr., 33° provided a prayer for all mentioned. The transactions of the COD continued with the reading of the previous year's baluster and reports from the Illustrious Secretary, Treasurer, and Prior. Additionally, informational updates were given for the Far East COD website, United Supreme Council (USC) Raffle Ticket Fundraiser, and the Peer Gazette Bulletin. After a brief intermission, Most Illustrious Bush resumed the business of the COD and delivered his allocution for 2019/2020.

In his allocution, he addressed several subjects and concerns of the USC, Orient, and our country. He began by thanking the membership for their steadfast commitment and resilience while adjusting to the virtual environment and adopting new ways to continue the business of the Orient. Specifically, he focused on the following topics in his allocution: Necrology, State of the Nation, State of the Rite, and State of the Orient.

NECROLOGY:

He reported that over the last two years the Orient lost five fraters due to death and asked that we keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

- *S.G.I.G. Charles Hales, 33°
Ohio (Honorary Member)*
- *G.I.G. Edwards Bables, 33°
- Keystone No. 85*
- *G.I.G. Vernon Carrington, 33°
- Keystone No. 85*
- *G.I.G. Joseph Hardy
- Keystone No. 85*
- *G.I.G. Authuree Ray Bellanger
- John J. Story No. 111*
- *S.P. Terrance Young
- J.C. Logan No. 114*

Additionally, he asked that we pray for the 132,000,000 people across the globe infected with COVID-19 and those that have died as a result of the virus.

STATE OF THE NATION:

Most Illustrious Bush stated that our nation as well as the world has seen the most devastating pandemic in modern times. He discussed how the pandemic has resulted in people losing their jobs and created barriers to people obtaining basic life necessities such as food and housing. Additionally, he addressed the civil unrest and division that is plaguing our country. He recalled one of his personal life experiences from his time growing up in Lower Alabama, when voting for the first time in 1980. He shared that his proudest voting moment was in 2008 and his most important in 2020, when our democracy seemed to be under attack. Furthermore, he challenged everyone to continue to fight for equal rights for all people, overturn laws intended to restrict our right to vote, end police brutality, and defeat racism and policies that create an environment for it to fester.

STATE OF THE RITE:

Regarding the State of the Rite, Most Illustrious Bush stated that our United Supreme Council is in good hands under the leadership of our Sovereign Grand Commander (SGC), Illustrious Melvin J. Bazemore, 33°. He has the vision to advance and move us smartly into the future. Even during these challenging times, he has our United Supreme Council working on growing the organization and improving our Scottish Rite Experiences. Additionally, he addressed the USC's strategic planning efforts and encouraged the membership to register for the upcoming USC Annual Session.

STATE OF THE ORIENT:

Most Illustrious Bush addressed several topics concerning the state of the Orient. First, he talked about membership losses due to suspensions and some administrative tasks we need to improve upon. He commended the Valley of Korea on their efforts to create new members, both fraters and loyal ladies. Additionally, he stated that we must plan for growth and that Master Masons are the foundation to grow our organization. He also discussed the importance of retention.

Other areas addressed were committees, staffing, history, media and communication. Most Illustrious Bush stated that the Orient of the Far East's mission is to build upon the great legacy and progress of our past by researching and documenting our history, maintaining a high commitment level, and practicing benevolence within our Orient. One way in which he aims to achieve this is by aligning the structure of the committees and sub-committees within the Orient with that of the USC. The goal is to institute a process to mentor and deliberately develop our members to better prepare them for leadership roles at the Orient and USC levels. Additionally, he raised the importance of having a team of Orient historians tasked to accurately capture, consolidate, and maintain records containing the history, activities, and important events in a single repository. Furthermore, he shared his vision on media and communication as it relates to this effort. He discussed the need to support the Orient of the Far East Peer Gazette Bulletin and its team led by S.G.I.G. Harry

S. Hernigan, 33°, G.I.G. George L. Steward, 33°, and G.I.G. Stuart A. Lee, II, 33°. He commented that the bulletin is an effective means to document our accomplishments and achievements and share them with others throughout the USC. Furthermore, he addressed the requirement to support the USC Bulletin, which is an additional media vehicle to tell our story. Most Illustrious Bush discussed the Order of the Golden Circle, Billy H. Hall Education Symposium, Dwight R. Johnson Benevolence Fund, and the Far East Commanders of the Rite in the remainder of his allocution.

Regarding the Order of the Golden Circle, a meeting was scheduled with them during this COD to discuss future plans and to provide a brief overview of the USC Golden Circle Working Group. Additionally, Most Illustrious Bush shared that Past Loyal Lady Ruler (PLLR) Marquita Black – Keystone Assembly No. 71, PLLR Dana Moore – J.C. Logan Assembly No. 95, and Loyal Lady Teruyo (Terry) Story – John J. Story Assembly No. 91 were individually recognized with an award for their outstanding service and commitment to order.

After the Deputy's allocution was accepted, the remaining business of the COD continued. The "S.G.I.G. James W. Davis Memorial Service", named in honor of Illustrious James W. Davis, 33°, who served as Deputy for Japan in 1978, was conducted to memorialize the fraters that passed away since April 2019. Afterwards, Most Illustrious Bush called for the Commanders-in-Chief to present reports for their respective Consistories; recognized the oldest and youngest Inspectors General,

S.G.I.G. Victor S. Baxter, Sr, 33° and G.I.G. Kedric Tolbert, 33°; and hosted the Billy H. Hall Education Symposium, during which G.I.G. Calvin Cobb, 33° provided an update on the Orient of the Far East Education Committee and gave a lecture on "The Lord's Prayer."

Prior to Most Illustrious Bush officially closing the COD, he heard the report from the Far East Commanders of the Rite on nominations for the 33rd Degree. The following fraters were nominated: S.P. Antonio Ray, 32° – Keystone No. 85, S.P. Jerry Mayers, 32° – Keystone No. 85, and S.P. Thomas Estelle, 32° – John J. Story No. 111. Award presentations followed afterwards including:

- The Daniel R. Poole Commander-In-Chief of the Year 2021 – S.P. Farley A. Wooldridge, II, 32° (85)
- Consistory of the Year 2021 – Keystone No. 85
- Sublime Prince of the Year 2021 – S.P. Jerry Mayers, 32° (85)
- Commander-In-Chief of the Year 2020 – S.P. Kedric Tolbert, 32° (85)
- Consistory of the Year 2020 – Keystone No. 85
- Sublime Prince of the Year 2020 – S.P. Travis West, 32° (85)
- Daniel R. Poole Excellence Award: G.I.G. Kurt Smith, 33° (85)
- Dwight R. Johnson Service Before Self Award: G.I.G. Gary Smith, 33° (111)
- Billy H. Hall Meritorious Service Award: G.I.G. Kenneth Williams, 33° (103)

Most Illustrious Bush called for closing remarks prior to officially closing the COD. After all remarks were given, a prayer was rendered by G.I.G. Key and the 51st Far East COD was officially closed. – G.I.G. Stuart A. Lee, II, 33°

United Supreme Council Quiz #4

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Thomas Hughes, 33°, Education Committee Chairman

1. Which committee serves as a planning agency for the Order under the direction of the Sovereign Grand Commander; to consider during the year all matters regarding the condition of the Rite, including the study of financial and membership reports to determine strengths and weaknesses obtained from such studies and recommend ways and means to overcome weaknesses and capitalize on strengths.
 - a) *General State of the Rite*
 - b) *Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats (SWOT)*
 - c) *Membership Development & Strategic Planning*
 - d) *Succession Planning*
2. Which officer of the Supreme Council shall guard the portals of the Supreme Council and charge of the paraphernalia of the Grand Chamber?
 - a) *Grand Sentinel*
 - b) *Grand Seneschal*
 - c) *Grand Tiler*
 - d) *Grand Capt. of the Guard*
3. How many Standing Committees does the Supreme Council have?
 - a) 17
 - b) 12
 - c) 18
 - d) 16
4. Honorary members of the Supreme Council are prohibited from serving on standing committees because they cannot attend all the sessions of the Supreme Council, specifically the Executive Sessions.
 - a) *True*
 - b) *False*
5. The Supreme Council recognizes the _____ of the Symbolic Grand Lodges of the States within its jurisdiction over the three Symbolic Degrees of Freemasonry.
 - a) *Grand Master*
 - b) *Charters*
 - c) *Exclusive Jurisdiction*
 - d) *Sovereignty*
6. It is the duty of the Committee on _____ to investigate and make recommendations to the Supreme Council on places for the Supreme Council to hold its Annual Meetings between the Triennial Meetings.
 - a) *Convention*
 - b) *Time and Place*
 - c) *Strategic Planning*
 - d) *Both a and b*
7. Whose duty is it to keep a faithful record of the transactions of the Supreme Council at every meeting thereof, and in a timely manner after the adjournment of the same reduce the record to an accurate narrative of the meeting?
 - a) *Grand Keeper of the Seal & Archives*
 - b) *Cathedral Secretary*
 - c) *Cathedral Recorder*
 - d) *Grand Recording Secretary*
8. The Illustrious Grand Master of Ceremonies shall assist the Sovereign Grand Commander in _____.
 - a) *Degree conferral, consecration, and dedication of cornerstones*
 - b) *The consecration and dedication of apartments, degree conferral, and upon other occasions of a ceremonial observance*
 - c) *The laying of cornerstones, degree conferral, and upon other occasions of a ceremonial observance*
 - d) *Both a and c*
9. The Sovereign Grand Commander is the law officer of the Rite within the Jurisdiction of this Supreme Council?
 - a) *True*
 - b) *False*
10. As the Supreme Authority of the Supreme Council, it is the Sovereign Commander's inherent right to suspend any elective officer of the Supreme Council at his will and pleasure.
 - a) *True*
 - b) *False*
11. 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 and Honorary Grand Inspectors General*
 - d) *Its Active, Past Active & Emeriti*
12. In the event of death or permanent disability of the Sovereign Grand Commander, the Lieutenant Grand Commander shall _____ the office of Sovereign Grand Commander and hold the office until the next _____ Meeting of the Supreme Council.
 - a) *Represent/Triennial*
 - b) *Hold/Executive*
 - c) *Act in/Triennial*
 - d) *Succeed to/Annual*
13. Regarding vacancies in office, permanent or temporary disability shall be determined by _____ of the Active members of the Supreme Council.
 - a) *Majority vote*
 - b) *Two-thirds vote*
 - c) *Medical Services Committee*
 - d) *Both b and c*
14. Past Active members may be present at all sessions of the Supreme Council and shall have the privilege of debate.
 - a) *True*
 - b) *False*
15. Emeriti members may be present at all sessions of the Supreme Council including Executive Sessions.
 - a) *True*
 - b) *False*

Orient of Illinois



***Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Melvin Frierson, 33°
Deputy for the Orient***

On October 14, 2021, the Illinois Council of Deliberation Benevolent Fund (ICDBF) held its Annual Board of Directors Executive Meeting at the Abraham Lincoln-Double Tree Hotel located 701 Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois. The meeting began with prayer by Vice-President Stewart and a hearty welcome by the President, Melvin Frierson. After the minutes from the last meeting were read, the Secretary and Treasurer presented financial reports noting that the ICDBF was stable. The President reported on the Alms Club and reiterated its purpose stating "the purpose of the Alms Club is to assist its members that may be in dire need of help". He reminded the Board of its obligations i.e., raising funds, educational assistance, Christmas Basket projects, and other social services programs.

Registration for the 104th Annual Session of the Illinois Council of Deliberation (ICOD) opened on Friday October 15, 2021. At 9:00AM, an Annual Health Forum was held with a presentation on Alzheimer's by Ms. Delia Jervier, Executive Director for the

Alzheimer's Association of Illinois who was introduced by GIG Ray Willis. She gave a very informative presentation, outlining the stages of Alzheimer's, classifying it as a disease. She also reported that there is a great need for volunteer caretakers and educators. Deputy Frierson thanked Ms. Jervier for an informative presentation and presented a \$2,000.00 check on behalf of ICOD to the Alzheimer's Association Chapter of Illinois.

A closed session of the 20th degree was, then, displayed by the ICOD Degree Team led by SGIG Millard Driskell. The 31st and 32nd degree were, subsequently, bestowed on 38 master masons by the Degree Team of Western Consistory #28 (PHA) including GIG Carl Pickett, GIG Glenn Pickett, GIG Leo Wimberley, GIG Gordon Brewer, GIG Charles Cooper, and others.

The State Commanders-of-the Rite held its Annual Meeting in the afternoon under the leadership of GIG Floyd Woods, State President. The State Officers gave detailed reports on the status of the Rite in Illinois (PHA). Only one officer's position was voted on, the Office of Treasurer. All other officers were retained for the ensuing year.

On Saturday, October 16, 2021, the 104th Annual Session of the Illinois Council of Deliberation (PHA) opened under the lights of Western Consistory #28 by Illustrious Commander-In-Chief Carl Richardson who received the Most Illustrious Commander-In-Chief Melvin Frierson. MICIC Frierson was escorted to the East and given Grand Honors and called on the Grand Prior to lead the Council in prayer. After prayer, the official reading of the Proclamation and the roll call of officers, roll call of Consistories, the Sovereign Grand Inspectors General from the Orient of Illinois were escorted to the East and given honors followed by visiting dignitaries from Wisconsin including SGIG Marshall Tharp, 33°, Deputy; SGIG James Martin, 33° and SGIG Micah Tharpe, 33°. SGIG Bennie Grisham, Past Deputy of Illinois, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, was escorted to the East and given honors as well as the York Rite Heads Houses of Illinois (PHA). Then, Most Worshipful Brother Roland G. Simon, Grand Master of Illinois Prince Hall Masons, was escorted to the East. After the greetings and felicitations, the



MICIC gave his allocution. In which he thanked the “Almighty” for allowing him to live through the COVID pandemic and thanked SGC Bazemore for his support during those trying times. He also stated “Black Lives do Matter” and that fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge and other Appendant and Concordant bodies in Illinois (PHA) remains good. He gave special thanks to the brethren for the betterment of the Organization, community and humanity.

After the minutes from the previous communication were read, the financial officers presented their reports. All figures were confirmed by the auditors who noted that all records are in proper condition and no recommendations were needed for improvement. The Educational Assistance Awards were also noted for nine recipients who will receive \$600 each including Dorian Andrews, Mitchell Cook, Havalyn Frierson, Kamil Frierson, Charles Hendon, Teniya Merrick, Ilesha Nicholas, Quentae Paxton and Renaya Woods. Following remarks from the Sovereigns, the MICIC and dignitaries made their Annual visit to the State Grand Assembly of Golden Circle where the State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler, Sis. Vera Small, presided. After the visitation, a Joint Memorial Service was held with a PowerPoint presentation of each departed Frater and Loyal Lady. Final reports followed after the service and clearance of the Asylum concluding the meeting for the day allowing all enough time to prepare for the Annual Awards Banquet on Saturday evening.

The Banquet activities included Council Awards, MSA Awards, In-House Raffle, Loyal Lady Services Awards and the presentations to the Deputy. The Banquet was well attended.



On Sunday October 17, 2021 the Deputy's Annual breakfast was held and The Council's Annual devotional services were led by Rev. GIG Leroy Gary and other Ministers and Deacons from across the Orient. The morning session opened with remarks by MICIC who was pleased with the participation and attendance of the brethren. The following reports were presented—In-House Raffle Report by Sublime Prince Emmitt Carter; Registration Committee Report by GIG Wendell Tucker, GIG Michael Ramey, GIG Lucas Rawls, GIG Kerry Fitch and SGIG Leroy Barnes, Chairman and Advisor; Annual Session Report by GIG William Norman, Chairman and GIG Maurice Willis; and the Alms Club Committee Report by GIG Tony Stafford. All reports were accepted by consent.

MICIC called for the names of the nominees for the 33rd and last degree for the Class of 2023. The

Secretary, James A. Mitchell, read the names of the nominees:

- ◆ Kenny Askew, #28
- ◆ Richard Berry, #28
- ◆ Alaric Blair, #28;
- ◆ Emmitt Carter, #28
- ◆ Melvin Crawford, #28
- ◆ Robert Felton, #28
- ◆ Lovell Fennoy, #64
- ◆ James Hannah, #28
- ◆ Andrew Harbison, #28
- ◆ Eugene Smith, #28;
- ◆ Antonio Terry, #104.

There were no objections to the names announced. After closing remarks from the Grand Inspectors General, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General, guests and the Grand Master, MICIC Frierson called for the “chain of union” to be formed. A closing prayer was given by the Grand Prior, Reverend GIG Leroy Gary. The 104th Annual Session was announced closed by MICIC Melvin Frierson at 12:13PM CST on October 17, 2021.



Orient of Iowa



***Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Osumana V. Cassell, 33°
Deputy for the Orient***

The 101st Annual Convocation of the Orient of Iowa Council of Deliberation (IACOD) was held on October 9, 2021, at the Cedar Rapids Scottish Rite Temple, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. During the Annual Luncheon, eleven Sublime Princes of the Donald W. Austin – Sammy Day, Jr. Class of 2021 were capped after advancing to the 32° of the Royal Secret. The capping ceremonies were performed by Illustrious William R. Stark, 33°, Illustrious Grand Minister of State, MICIC, Illustrious Osumana V. Cassell, 33° (68), Deputy for Iowa, and MWGM Lynn Lewis, Jr., 33° (46). Two Orient of Iowa Lifetime Certificates of Achievement were given to two well deserving recipients – SP Willie C. Dixon, 32° (68), and SGIG Owen T. Sloan, 33° (46), for their many and continued years of service to the Iowa Council of Deliberation and the United Supreme Council, AASR, NJ, PHA, USA, Inc., as true and faithful Scottish Rite Masons. A presentation of two United Supreme Council Benevolent Foundation Student Aid Checks were given to our 2021 High School Graduates –

Christopher Lewis, Jr., and Blohr Queen Konton.



GIG Wendell G. Terry, 33°, Ill. CIC for No. 68, opened an Occasional Consistory for the purpose of convening the 101st Annual Convocation of the Iowa Council of Deliberation. He received MICIC Cassell, 33°, into his 101st Annual Convocation. MICIC then received dignitaries from other Orients and Jurisdictions including SGIG John W. Hardeman III, 33°, Deputy for Minnesota; SGIG James Martin, 33°, Assistant to the Deputy for Wisconsin; SGIG Donald Mosier, 33° representing SGIG Gary L. Sissel, 33°, Grand Secretary General, Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction; SGIG William R. Stark, 33°, Ill. Grand Minister of State, representing Sovereign Grand Commander, Illustrious Melvin J. Bazemore, 33°; and then MWGM, MWPHGL of Iowa, Lynn Lewis, Jr.

SGIG Cassell, 33°, gave his Allocution outlining his actions and future vision for the Orient of Iowa. Thereafter, the Allocution

Committee Chairperson, Peer Elect Eddie Sauls III, 32° (46), gave the committee's report, in addition to congratulating the members of IACOD for the very able and efficient manager in which the affairs of the IACOD are being conducted by the Illustrious Deputy.

The two Consistories in the Valleys of Des Moines and Waterloo respectively have conducted their annual elections with the following officers elected and installed: CIC – GIG Wendell G. Terry, 33° (68), and Peer Elect Sherman Isaac, 32° (46). The Iowa Commanders of the Rite elected GIG Maurice Evans, 33° (46) as their President and he was installed.

At the completion of remarks, MICIC, SGIG Cassell, 33° (68), instructed Illustrious Grand Master of Ceremonies, Peer Elect Earl J. Harrison, 32° (68) to direct the Fraters in forming the Chain of Union around the altar. Once the Chain of Unity was formed, closing prayer was offered by Peer Elect Sherman Isaac, 32° (46), Illustrious Grand Prior; after prayer, SGIG Cassell, 33° (68), directed the Fraters around the altar to join him in singing 'God be with You 'til We Meet Again;' The 101st Annual Convocation of the Orient of IACOD was then officially closed.



Orient of Nebraska



**Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Johnny L. Cummings, 33rd
Deputy for the Orient**

Most Illustrious Commander in Chief, Orient of Nebraska, SGIG Johnny L. Cummings initiated the opening of the 108th Nebraska Council of Deliberation (NCOD). He welcomed all present. Prayer was given by Illustrious Grand Prior, GIG Lycurgus C. Curry, Jr. MICIC Cummings welcomed MWGM Michael R. Wilcoxon, MWPHGL of Nebraska. Illustrious Grand Secretary Henry D. Atkinson conducted a roll call of officers and members, and MICIC Cummings declared the 108th Annual NCOD open for business.

The floor was turned over to Active Emeriti SGIG Doysa L. Whitaker. He introduced the MICIC Cummings, who gave his allocution. The MICIC discussed State of the World, State of the Nation, State of the Rite, USC Strategic Initiative Vision Plan, Benevolence, Order of the Golden Circle, and the Upcoming 2022 Deputies/Overseers/Assistants Midyear Conference in January. The floor was turned back over to MICIC Cummings. Reports were given by all required officers and members. MICIC Cummings stated there were no Fraters that passed during the preceding year. He,

then, stated that the USC Lifetime Membership Initiative is going well, and congratulated the five Life members from the Orient. He also discussed the USC Annual Raffle Fundraiser, and encouraged members to participate in this project. All officers retained their positions for the ensuing year.

The Orient was presented with the opportunity of hosting the Annual Deputies, Overseers, and Assistants Midyear Conference, held in Omaha, January 13–16. The members did an outstanding job in hosting our distinguished guests. After closing remarks and prayer by GIG Lycurgus Curry, MICIC Cummings declared the 108th NCOD closed at 5:20 p.m.

Joshua D. Kelley Consistory #27

J.D. Kelley Consistory #27 initiated partnerships with the Marine Corp Toys for Tots Program, along with the Open-Door Mission for the Homeless Program. The Toys for Tots program donated 900 different toys, including bicycles, to the Consistory. The membership reached out to five community schools to identify students that could benefit from donations. The reply from these schools was magnificent. All toys were given out on December 18th creating happy faces among the children. The program was a huge success.

Additionally, the Consistory initiated a help the Homeless Seats and Feet Drive with the Open-

Door Mission. The goal was to generate enough underwear and socks as possible to assist in helping needy families. The drive was a huge success. All collected items were delivered to the Open-Door Mission on February 22nd. The Orient will continue its partnership with these two organizations, along with the establishing partnerships with other organizations. The Orient will also support the Open-Door Mission for the Homeless through the generating of food, toiletries, socks, and tissue, the Salvation Army with other programs and projects, and partnering with the MWPHGL of Nebraska and others to implement food drives to feed those in need of meals, to name a few.



The NCOD was able to hold its 4th Annual Golf Tournament, and was able to present two scholarships to deserving college students (Lanae Kent, Salena Alderson). In addition to that, the Orient received a donation from the Benevolent Fund to present two scholarships to deserving college students (Nia Johnson, Nyla Holliday).



Orient of New Jersey



***Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Robert Oglesby, 33°
Deputy for the Orient***

The New Jersey of Council Deliberation (NJCOD) was held from November 19 - 21, 2021 at the Holiday Inn, 2175 Marlton Pike West, Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Our session began on Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. with our NJ Commanders of the Rite's (NJCOTR) meeting, under the leadership and direction of GIG Jeffrey M. Perry, President. The NJCOTR was elated and very blessed to have had Ill. Melvin J. Bazemore, Sovereign Grand Commander in attendance at our 2021 NJCOD's Annual Session. His attendance truly set the tone for our entire Session. The Orient of New Jersey's Commanders of the Rite continues to promote and support the programs and endeavors of the USC. During this meeting our Hospitaler and the Chairman of our Youth Mentoring Program reported on our sick and distressed members and families as well as all of our current and future youth activities throughout the Orient. Also, our Valley Presidents were given the same opportunity to report on the status of their Consistories and various charitable activities. The following officers were re-elected for another term in office: President: GIG Jeffrey M. Perry, Vice

President: GIG James Mack, Jr., Treasurer: SGIG Charles F. Williams and Secretary: GIG Walter A. Smith. Prior to the closing of the meeting Ill. Bazemore, 33°, expressed his sincere pleasure with the administrative "Work" that the NJCOTR has been doing here in the Orient of New Jersey.

The Ritualistic Opening took place on Saturday, November 20, 2021 by the host Consistory, DeHugo Consistory No. 2 (Valley of Camden) under the leadership of S.P. William T. Robinson, 32°, Ill. Commander-In-Chief. He received SGIG Robert L. Oglesby, Sr., Most Illustrious Commander-In Chief, who was given his proper "Honors" and presented the "Gavel" to conduct the business of the NJCOD. The Sovereign and Grand Inspectors Generals were received by the Most Illustrious Commander-In-Chief and given their proper "Honors" and requested our Officers to take their respective "Stations and Places" to conduct the business of our Annual Session. After, Roll Call of Officers and Consistories, the Most Illustrious Commander-in Chief received SGIG Edward M. Brooks, Secretary - General, H.E. and other invited guests into our Annual Session including SGIG Sean R. Snead, Assistant Grand Seneschal and the following visiting Council of Deliberations—Delaware: GIG Johnny A. Burton and GIG George B. Winston; SGIG Douglas R. Posicastro, Deputy for New Jersey - Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, SGIG Larry S. Plasket, Supreme Council and GIG David J. Herman, Jr., Secretary to the New Jersey Council of Deliberation. Our visiting Virtual Guests included, SGIG Leonard A. Heard, Deputy, Pennsylvania; SGIG Robert J. Meekins, Assistant to the Deputy of Michigan. Ill. Oglesby received LL

Mary A. Burrus, State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler and the Past State Grand Loyal Lady Rulers of the State Grand Assembly, Order of the Golden Circle and the Honorable M.W. Michael Anthony Wiggins, Grand Master of the MWPHGL of New Jersey along with his Cabinet. Remarks and congratulations were given by M.E. Harry Young, Most Excellent Grand High Priest on behalf of the Prince Hall Family.

The Most Illustrious Commander-In-Chief's Allocution was presented and was received and accepted by the NJCOD. The main emphasis of the allocution was to remain vigilant during these challenging times as we navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic as safely as possible as a "Nation", as a "State" and as members of the "Craft". He thanked the Elected and Appointed Officers and the various Committee Members for their steadfast commitment and dedication rendered to the NJCOD. He also thanked his lovely wife Sis. Angela Oglesby for their 37 years of marriage and for all that she has done for him and their two children and five grand children.



The Annual Session of the State Grand Assembly, Order of the Golden Circle under the leadership of LL Mary A. Burrus, State Grand

Loyal Lady Ruler also met on November 20, 2021 and, at 1:00 PM, Ill. Oglesby; SGIG William M. Moore; RW Clyde H. Horton, Jr, Deputy Grand Master; visited their Session. All six Assemblies were present and their charitable activities continue to go very well. This being an election year, officers for the ensuing year of 2022 included State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler: LL Daphne P. Roberts, State Grand Loyal Lady Asst Ruler: LL Lisa Gist-Ragland, State Grand Loyal Lady Priestess: LL Paulette McGee-Thomas, State Grand Loyal Lady Guide: LL Nicole E. Mingo Horton, State Grand Loyal Lady Treasurer: LL Evette M. Davis, State Grand Loyal Lady Secretary: LL Marilyn D. Jones, State Grand Loyal Lady Herald: LL Kahie A. Loflan, State Grand Loyal Lady Std. Bearer: LL Tony Bethea, State Grand Loyal Lady Inner Guard: LL Tolara Deloatch, State Grand Loyal Lady Outer Guard, LL Donna D. Robinson, State Gr. Loyal Lady Asst Treas.: LL Jessi A. Banks and State Gr. Loyal Lady Asst. Secretary: LL Christine Sales.

Activities at NJCOD's Annual Scholarship Banquet were abundant. The State Grand Assembly distributed the "Gold Plaque Award" for their commitment, dedication and service. The Award of Merit was presented to LL Florence Rose Thomas for 30 years of service as the Grand Assembly's Assistant Secretary and LL Florence Sylvester for her service as an elected officer of the Grand Assembly. For service to their subordinate Assemblies, LL Beatrice Ferrell, LLR (9); LL Lisa Gist-Ragland, LLR (16); LL Ann Davis, LLR (27); LL Denise Harris, LLR (33); LL Sandra Privett-Garrard, LLR (44); LL Sharon Day LLR (posthumous award) (83) were also honored for their service.

The NJCOD's C. Morris Cain Scholarship Awards Committee under the leadership of GIG Walter A. Smith continues to celebrate the accomplishments and educational milestones of eight deserving "2021" graduates from across of the Orient of New Jersey. NJCOD awarded eight \$1,000 academic scholarships to Drew E. Taylor, Hailey Timmons, Zahir McNeil, Donald William Hood, Jr., Bianca S. Grimsley, Malikai Y. Brown, Glenn M. Ferguson and Jordan Bryce Lucas. Each of our six Consistories within the Orient are allotted one scholarship award and, with the assistance of the United Supreme Council, and the New Jersey Commanders of the Rite, we are able assist these students financially as they matriculated into schools of higher learning.

Another major highlight of the 2021 New Jersey's Council of Deliberation was the initial rollout of our inaugural SGIG Darrow E. Hill Distinguished Service Award Program. This Distinguished Service Award (DSA) was given to those Officers and Members for their commitment, dedication and the support rendered to the NJCOD through the years. 32 individuals received this prestigious award including Ms. Kim Wallace, Mr. Keith Corsey, Jr. (family of SGIG Darrow E. Hill); SGIG Melvin J. Bazemore, Sovereign Grand

Commander; SGIG Edward M. Brooks, Sec. General, H.E.; M.W. Michael A. Wiggins, Grand Master (MWPHGLNJ); SGIG Harvey D. Saunders; SGIG Robert L. Oglseby, Sr.; SGIG John M. Bettis; SGIG Homer O. Justice; S.G.I.G Richardo McNeil; S.G.I.G James G. Allen; SGIG William M. Moore; SGIG Harry McDowell; SGIG Walter D. Staton, Jr.; SGIG Charles F. Williams; SGIG Isiah Cherry; SGIG Thomas R. Hughes, Sr.; SGIG Eubert G. Brown; SGIG Ronald A. Clark; SGIG William J. Ewing; SGIG Garrett L. Winn; GIG Jeffrey M. Perry; GIG James Mack, Jr.; GIG Walter A. Smith; GIG Warren P. Moore; GIG Rev. Victor M. Lee. The following Commanders-In-Chief received the DSA for their 2 or 3 consecutive years of service to their respective Consistories: SP William T. Robinson; SP Tyshiem W. Dasher; GIG Corbin D. Hare; GIG Michael J. Nelson; SP Henry Tripp and GIG Milton J. Morris.

The New Jersey Commanders of the Rite Bulletin continues to feature messages from the Office of the Deputy of Orient; NJ historical items, Health Awareness items; Scottish Rite Enlightenment; it also features acknowledgements and accomplishments of our Commanders of the Rite members here in the Orient of New Jersey; as well as other Scottish Rite

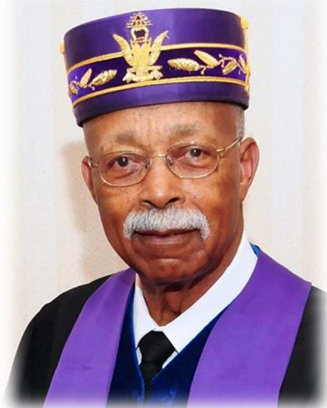


philanthropic, charitable endeavors and activities.

On Sunday, November 21, 2021 we attended the Scottish Rite Burial Team of Ophir Consistory No. 48 (Trenton). The team under the direction of SGIG Ronald A. Clark performed the Memorial and 33° Ring Ceremony followed by a Sermonette from VSL: (St. John 11:11) that was given by GIG Rev. Victor M. Lee, Grand Prior. It is with great sadness to report on the passing of (10) members of the NJCOD for the period of October 1, 2020 – September 2021 to include SGIG Ulysses D. Baker, Past President of the NJ's Commanders of the Rite; and Past Valley President, Valley of Camden and GIG Michael Blackmon. Following our November 2021 Annual Session, we also bereave the loss of SGIG Dr. Ivory M. Buck, Jr., Past Grand Secretary General, H.E. and Past Grand Recording Secretary, H.E. and GIG J. Hunter Ellison, Past Valley President, Asbury Park.

To closeout the Annual Session of the NJCOD, Sovereign Grand Commander Bazemore and M.W. Michael Anthony Wiggins brought greetings and gave remarks on behalf of their respective offices. In closing as the Most Illustrious Commander-In-Chief, I first must thank my heavenly father for all the blessings that has been presented to the Orient of NJ. Also, I would like to thank the elected and appointed officers of the NJCOD and the State Grand Assembly for their commitment, dedication and support. I Pray that our heavenly father will continue to bless us through these trying times. Remember from whence cometh your help. Remember that God loves you and so do I. "Stay Blessed!"

Orient of New York



**Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Grady Edge, 33°
Deputy for the Orient**

A virtual meeting of 96th Annual Session of the New York State Council of Deliberation was held October 17, 2021. Illustrious Deputy Grady Edge received the Honorable Walter C. King, Grand Master of the Jurisdiction of New York, Ill. Melvin J. Bazemore, Sovereign Grand Commander, Sovereign Grand Inspector Generals and Sublime Princes into the virtual meeting. SGC Melvin J. Bazemore brought remarks while visiting with the Southern Jurisdiction during their Annual Session. The meeting was robust, and the Orient remains vibrant.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS:

King David Consistory #3

- Coronated 26 new Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret.
- Created a 140th Anniversary Commemorative coin.
- Presented the SGIG Adolphous O. Smith, Jr. the Vice President Award for exemplary service to several Fraters and the GIG James D. Bell Dean Award for participation in study class and degree work to SP Ray Rivera.

King David Consistory #3

- On average, 20 Fraters attended study classes twice monthly where research assignments are given by III. GIG Tchiyuka Cornelius, Dean of Study.
- An online Dues Portal created.
- Hosted Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal of downstate consistories.

Bison #29

- Coronated 11 new Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret.
 - Held Banquet honoring SGIG Brian K. Lewis, SGIG Charles Burt, and SGIG Stanly Mack for their outstanding work in the community.
 - GIG Dr. Adam Sumlin continues his great work at Roswell Park Cancer Hospital on prostate cancer disease education and awareness.
 - GIG Darius Pridgen, the Bishop and Senior Pastor of True Bethel Baptist Church now serves as President of the Buffalo Common Council. He is a mentor, servant, community leader and organizer. His outreach includes providing food, shelter, aid, and assistance to the needy including to individuals re-entering society.
 - GIG Thomas Beauford, Jr. was named President and Chief Executive Officer of the Buffalo Urban League.
 - Fully supported the USC Raffle Drawing.
- #### Utica Consistory #45
- The Annual Grady Edge Person of Distinction Award Dinner was held August 21, 2021, in Utica. Dr. Cheryl Minor and Mr. Patrick Johnson were the award recipients.
 - Held food and clothing drives.

Long Island Consistory # 61

- Coronated 24 new Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret.
- SP Kevin Parker 32°, (a New York State Senator) with key support by SGIG Alonzo Ivery and the entire consistory collaborated and sponsored a Back-to School Celebration in Brooklyn, NY (below). It was well supported and attended by members of the community and the Fraters. The program included backpacks, school supplies, food, music, face painting, fitness, youth program information and Cultural Arts performances. Several other Back to School Programs were conducted across the entire orient during the year.

Albany #90

- Activities included marketing and promoting the Grady Edge Reading and Stem Program, working with local shelters, promoting positive services for our children, and being a light in our local churches.

Pentecost #98

- Coronated 11 new Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret.
- Participated in the joint degree hosted by King David Consistory No.3.

- Made monetary donations to organizations in the community.

Grady Edge Reading Program

- The Grady Edge Reading Program is a New York statewide program. SGIG El-Wise Noisette 33°, Albany #90 who oversees the Grady Edge Reading Program says, "Our goal is to build back better ensuring that the Grady Edge Reading Program will be the catalyst that maintains and restores a love for reading in the lives of our youngsters as we reclaim normalcy".
- The City of Albany Police Department in conjunction with New York State United Teachers and The Grady Edge Reading Program sponsored a community event on Saturday, July 3rd from 10am until 4pm to stimulate normalcy back in the community. This united cause was highly effective and well supported by the community. Several books were given to the children that were present at the event.
- GIG Cedric T. Bolton 33° has arranged a meeting the Van Duym Elementary School in Syracuse, New York to discuss

the Grady Edge Reading Program and the opportunity to install the program at the school. In addition to the reading program, he initiated the fall 2021 back-to-school Book Bags Program

All in all, a grand total of 62 new Sublime Princes were coronated in the Orient. A total of 169 Fraters registered for the Virtual COD Session. 346 United Supreme Council Raffle Tickets were sold. In the book "Scottish Rite Reflection Volume One":

- SGIG Adam C. Jones, King David Consistory #3 was recognized for 2 interviews he conducted.
- SGIG El Wise Noisette, Albany #90 was given recognition for his submittal titled, "Leading by Serving".

The Deputy delivered an inspiring allocation that deeply resonated with the membership. The elements of his Allocation are as follows:

- "A man's is only as great as the truth he speaks. A man is only as great as the destiny he seeks. A man is only as great as the help he gives. A man's is only as great as the life he lives."

All officers succeeded themselves in the New York State Grand Assembly Order of the Golden Circle and were duly installed by Illustrious Grady Edge.

"Ensuring the Future by Enhancing the Scottish Rite Experience. United in Service and Commitment through Action, Accountability and Sustainable Results".



Orient of Ohio



**Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Carl A. Williams, 33rd
Deputy for the Orient**

BEZALEEL NO. 15 UNITY DAY

On September 11, 2021, a long overdue idea born out of the desire for collaboration between the Consistory and the Assembly finally bore fruit. The Fraters of Bezaleel Consistory No. 15 and the Loyal Ladies of Bezaleel Assembly No. 19 joined together to host a Unity Day at El Hasa Temple No. 28 where both bodies meet. This day was full of food, fun and fellowship. General cookout fare such as hot dogs and hamburgers were offered and the gathering also allowed for any parties interested in joining the Consistory or Assembly to interact with the members in a nonformal setting.



**BEZALEEL ASSEMBLY NO. 19
"HATTITUDE" SPRING
FASHION SHOW**

Also on September 11, 2021, the

Loyal Ladies of Bezaleel Assembly No. 19 hosted their virtual "Hattitude Spring Fashion Show." The Loyal Ladies showed off their finest in hats and competed for top prizes.

EDUCATION IS A LIFELONG PURSUIT

The Scottish Rite of freemasonry is often referred to as the college or university of freemasonry. As such its students must understand that the pursuit of education is lifelong and varied. G.I.G. Roderick Q. "Rodney" Blount Jr. 33rd (Charles W. Hales Class of 2021) earned his Master of Education degree from Ohio State University. This is his second masters degree and fourth degree overall. Congrats to Ill. Blount on his educational achievement.

112TH OHIO COUNCIL OF DELIBERATION

For the second year in a row due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the annual session was held virtually.

Breaking with tradition the State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler was not able to participate in the banquet given in her honor due to COVID. However, this year the celebration moved to Zoom. On Friday, October 22, State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Pamela Hopkins was feted with a virtual banquet to acknowledge her 2 years of service. It was a well-received success!

Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief and Deputy for the Orient of Ohio S.G.I.G. Carl A. Williams 33rd hosted the second virtual annual session and it was a success.

The Orient was host to a number of guests to include the 20th Sovereign Grand Commander, the Honorable Melvin J. Bazemore; the Lieutenant Grand Commander Sidney D. Broadnax Jr. 33rd; and



three other Cabinet members. Also, a host of other Scottish Rite luminaries from other Orients such as Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania attended.

The business of the Council of Deliberation was handled in an efficient manner and a good time was had by all.

POLITICS IN ACTION: MAYORAL DEBATE

On Wednesday, October 27, the Ohio Council of Deliberation Voter Awareness Committee in conjunction with Bezaleel Consistory No. 15 hosted a mayoral debate between candidates Justin Bibb and Kevin Kelley. They were vying to become the 54th Mayor of Cleveland.

This session was facilitated by S.P. David Whitehead 32nd (21) and moderated by S.P. Cortez Bogard 32nd (15). It was streamed live on Facebook. Justin Bibb won the mayoral ship.

"HOW MUCH TALLER WE SEEM WHEN WE BEND OVER TO HELP OTHERS"

*Submitted by LL Joan Hampton
Picture by LL Debra Miller*

During this perilous time in our Country, the Community Outreach Committee from Bezaleel Assembly No. 19, Order of the Golden Circle, under the leadership of Loyal Lady Ruler Karen D. Bryant, found time to give back to the community. On Monday, October 18, 2021, Loyal Ladies DeNoris Brown, Dianna Alexander, Joan Hampton, Diane Jofferion, and Past Loyal Lady Ruler Sarah Holland presented the Greater Cleveland Food Bank with a check for two hundred dollars (\$200.00). The following are excerpts from the thank you note received from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank signed by Michele Savoldi, Senior Manager

2021 Series of Panel Discussions

Featured Topic: **"Stand Your Ground Law in Ohio"**

March 23, 2021 @ 6:30 PM

Moderator: **Cortez Bogard**

View live on **"Voter Awareness in Ohio"** Facebook page

Guest Panelists: Council Woman Nakeshia Nickerson
State Senator Hearcel Craig, Franklin County Commissioner Kevin L. Boyce, and
Former Judge and Civil Attorney Fanon Rucker



of Corporate Relations.

"From backpacks full of food for the weekend, afterschool meals, fresh produce to drive-through distributions and more, Bezaleel Assembly 19's recent gift of \$200.00, received on 10/19/2021, is already making an incredible and immediate difference for so many of our neighbors. We are so grateful for partners like Bezaleel Assembly 19. For hundreds of thousands of Northeast Ohioans, struggling to put food on the table was their "normal"—now even more of our neighbors are struggling to make ends meet due to the pandemic's ongoing financial impact".

Bezaleel Assembly No. 19 feels blessed to be able to help this great organization to continue serving our community.

GOOD DEEDS ARE RECOGNIZED

On Monday, December 13, 2021, S.G.I.G. Dr. Steven Reese 33° was honored by the mayor of Cincinnati, the Honorable John Cranely and Cincinnati City Council, by enjoying the privilege of a street ceremonially renamed in his honor—Seymour Street in the

Bond Hill neighborhood—where his family business building stood for 20 years. Illustrious Reese is a successful serial entrepreneur well-known in Cincinnati power circles.

In recognition of this honor, Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief and Deputy for the Orient of Ohio S.G.I.G. Carl A. Williams 33° declared Monday, December 13, 2021, as "Dr. Steve Reese Day" throughout the Orient of Ohio.



SECOND ANNUAL VIRTUAL REUNION—BEZALEEL CONSISTORY NO. 15

On Wednesday, December 15, 2021, Bezaleel Consistory No. 15 assisted 10 men in furthering their knowledge of Freemasonry by Advancing them into the degrees

of the Scottish Rite. Courtesy degree work was performed for two candidates from L.D. Easton Consistory No. 21, Valley of Columbus. Technical duties were handled by G.I.G Tony J. Dye 33°.



DOVE ASSEMBLY NO. 34

On Sunday, December 19, 2021, the Assembly celebrated its 60th anniversary in style by hosting a gospel fest on the Zoom platform. It was well attended and a good time was had by all.

VOTING: A VERY SERIOUS MATTER

Considering the very recent political turmoil and shenanigans that occurred on a national stage, the Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief and Deputy for the Orient of Ohio S.G.I.G. Carl A. Williams 33° (15) empowered political-minded Fraters and Loyal Ladies to form the Orient of Ohio Voter Awareness committee. This committee sought to synergize the efforts of the various masonic bodies of the jurisdiction of Ohio using a multiprong approach working in conjunction with other civic, fraternal, faith-based, and community-mobilization organizations to push out the message of the importance of voting. These efforts were augmented by voter registration drives held at parades, picnics, and city fair community events; nonpartisan leafleting in neighborhoods; hosting candidate nights and candidate forums in-person and on Zoom; and pushing information out via the Voter

Awareness in Ohio Facebook page. Notably none of the participating organizations engage in (or will engage in) partisan politicking. Collectively, we promote no candidate or stance over another. Rather we all are about providing the impetus for the voter to educate themselves on the issues and then vote their conscious. The goal is always to Engage, Educate, and Mobilize! A few days ahead of Election Day 2021 local area teams lead by Team Captains simultaneously performed coordinated efforts statewide. In all instances social distancing protocols were observed.

Cleveland—S.P. Cortez Bogard 32° (15) in conjunction with the Urban League and local NAACP chapter led a Souls 2 the Polls effort and provided voters transportation to the Cleveland Board of Education to vote early. This effort was supported by G.I.G. Maurio D. Powell 33° (15) and LL Dee Dee Howell (19) among others. A mayor's candidate forum was also held for those candidates seeking the Mayoral ship of the city of Cleveland. S.G.I.G. Carl A. Williams 33° provided the opening and closing remarks.

Cincinnati—S.P. David Whitehead 32° assisted by G.I.G. Lonnie Jones II 33° led a very diverse group of stakeholders (King Solomon Consistory No. 20; Sinai Temple No. 59; NAACP; Cincinnati Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.; Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library; Center for Closing the Health Gap; Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition; and the League of Women Voters) that extensively engaged the outlying community through voter registration; educating felons on restoral of voting rights; assistance with completing absentee ballot

applications; education on early voting and candidate platforms. These efforts took place throughout the month of October at Pee Wee football games; a booth at the Duke Energy Center; city council and school board meetings; several Zoom candidate nights Q and A sessions; Get Out the Neighborhood blitz (2,500 households contacted); and a television commercial blitz.

Columbus—G.I.G. Joseph Clark Sr. 33° (21) led L.D. Easton Consistory No. 20 and a broad coalition to include the 4th District, OES; Alla Baba Temple No. 53; Alla Baba Court No. 75; 6 of the Divine Nine organizations; Unity Coalition of Ohio; Ladies of the Golden Needle; A. Phillip R a n d o l p h Institute; Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; and various faith-based and community mobilization organizations in various voter awareness activities. Committee members provided transportation to the polls and were readily identifiable through the wearing of the distinctive Orient of Ohio Prince Hall voting pin. This effort was supported by G.I.G. Sean P. Ruffin 33° (20); G.I.G. Romney Stepney 33° (21); S.P. Stacie Baker 33°; and Brother Rafe Lewis, St. Marks Lodge No. 7.

Toledo—St. Matthews Consistory No. 24; LaPaz Assembly No. 35; Mecca Temple No. 43; Mecca Court No. 73; and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. combined efforts under the leadership of G.I.G. John Winlock 33° (24) to make contact with friends, family, associates, and colleagues, in person and through social media, to meet at the Early Vote Center. This effort was supported by LL Taunya Roach

(35) among others.

Dayton/Springfield—G.I.G. Willie Terrell 33° and G.I.G. William Michael Henry 33° and G.I.G. Dale Henry 33°, assisted by various others, led Souls 2 the Polls events in their respective areas.

Youngstown/Warren—Members of Bezaleel Consistory No. 15 and Covenant Lodge No. 59 joined forces with the NAACP; local area members of the Order of the Eastern Star; and various faith-based and community-mobilization organizations hosted a Souls 2 the Polls event to shuttle voters to the Mahoning County Board of Elections. This effort was led by G.I.G. Bernard White 33° (15) and G.I.G. Marshall B. Coney Jr. 33° (15). During this most recent election season it has been my pleasure and that of the committee members and local area teams (whether in the forefront or background) that participated in the election process and activated the minds of registered voters and ensured our efforts went smoothly.

The committee members and local area teams blanketed the Orient and continued the grassroots work of those who were in the trenches before us. We must engage more citizens in intelligently exercising their right to vote. Truth to power requires effort. **GET OUT AND VOTE!** Whether it be service IN the community or service FOR the community or service TO the community the Orient of Ohio is the heart of it all.

These efforts could not be successful without the full support of Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief and Deputy for the Orient of S.G.I.G. Carl A Williams 33° and the guidance of committee liaison S.G.I.G. Steven Reese 33° (20).

**G.I.G. Joseph Clark Sr. 33°,
Chairman**



Washington & Oregon



**Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Gregory Wraggs, 33^o
Deputy for the Orient**

The Loyal Ladies of Washington and Oregon love community service. This has been a continued focus so SGLLR Martha Davis designated the month of October as SOCKTOBER. Our Orient is divided into two states and several large communities. SGLLR Davis decided that she would assign captains in four different areas and have them reach out and find an organization that needed help. Once they found a project each

captain was to collect socks for that group. The winning team captain would be crowned Miss Socktober. Team Captains were LL Brenda Wraggs, Cascadian Assembly #46 (South) Tacoma selecting the Norah B. Walker Foundation; LLR Brenda Moon, Willamette Assembly #57 Portland selecting First Baptist Church Mission of Portland; PGLLR Peggy McClary, Cascadian Assembly #46 (North) Tacoma selecting the SPIN Café (Serving People in Need) of Oak Harbor and SGLLR Cassandra White, Northwestern Assembly #45 Greater Seattle serving the Randolph Carter Community Center.

Needless to say it was a FUN and fulfilling competition as we collected 932 pair of socks plus hand warmers, blankets and more. SGLLR Cassandra White collected 88 pair, LLR Brenda Moon collected 200 pair, PGLLR Peggy McClary collected 250 pair of socks

and toe warmers and our winner LL Brenda Wraggs collected 394 pair of socks. The ladies had so much fun that they repeated this drive on their own in December collecting hats, gloves, scarves and more socks for their organizations. In December more than \$550 of items from Dollar Tree and other local retailers were turned in to the Spin Café and Nora B. Walker Foundation. This was a huge success for our Orient. Donations were also made to three local shelters and a youth home.



Washington / Oregon Council of Deliberation, State Grand Assembly and The Nora B. Walker Foundation delivered over 200 plates to the less fortunate in the

communities of Tacoma, Lakewood, Federal Way and Olympia, WA. Ill. Deputy SGIG Gregory Wraggs, CIC Clarence Williams #106, SP Larry Opher, SGLLR Martha Davis, LL Brenda Wraggs and LL Sharon Laing.





1514 Fitzwater Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146



The United Supreme Council

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry P.H.A.
Northern Jurisdiction U.S.A., Inc.

Official Summons

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

Take Due Notice

That the One-Hundred Forty-First Session of The United Supreme Council since the Union will be held at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, May 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 2022. All Sovereign Grand Inspectors General are required to attend. All Grand Inspectors General who have not attended the last two (2) sessions are required to attend in compliance with Article III, Section 9, Constitution and General Regulations.