Pictured: The home of the United Supreme Council, A.A.S.R., N.J., P.H.A., U.S.A. This building is located in the 1500 Block of Fitzwater Street, Philadelphia, PA. Within this building are the headquarters of the Sovereign Grand Commander, his Cabinet and the Administrative team of Ms. Renee Isaac and Mr. Deborah Miles. Also located in this block are the Scottish Rite House and Scottish Rite Towers, they are two high rise buildings which house senior citizens and are owned by you, the membership.
SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Fraternal Greetings

First, I give thanks to Almighty God for giving us the opportunity to serve others. The United Supreme Council is an amazing group of men who collectively do wonders to make a difference in all our communities, in all our cities, in all our states and in the entire world. Those who preceded us have left an awesome legacy upon which we can build, and I know we are ready for the tasks ahead of us.

Secondly, I sincerely thank the Editor, S.G.I.G. Edward Brooks, for working diligently and untiringly to ensure a timely publication of our Bulletin and I also thank each of you for your contributions to this effort. This Bulletin allows us to show and inform others about a few of the many positive things which are occurring through the United Supreme Council.

Further, I thank the Loyal Ladies who are also fully supporting us in all our endeavors. It is always good to know that our support structure is standing ready to help when needed.

As I look back on the important events that have been celebrated, I am reminded that it is important to remember our history, for it identifies who we are.

ILLUSTRIOUS SOLOMON WALLACE, 33°
SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER

By our actions, let us demonstrate to the communities around us that we are indeed a vital and relevant organization committed to charity, true fellowship and brotherly love. By supporting the programs of the United Supreme Council, we are faithful to our mission and not forgetting our obligations.

Within a few weeks we will meet in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to convene for the 135th Annual Session of this United Supreme Council. I look forward to greeting each of you.

God loves you and so do I.

Fraternally,

Dr. Solomon Wallace, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

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Official Summons

To all Sovereign Grand Inspectors General and Grand Inspectors General of the Thirty Third and Last Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry and Honorary Members of the United Supreme Council, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc.

Take Due Notice That

The One Hundred and Thirty-Fifth Annual Session of the United Supreme Council, since the Union will be held at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Friday, May 27, 2016 thru Tuesday May 31, 2016.

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.

BY ORDER OF

ILL. DR. SOLOMON WALLACE, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

Attest: Ill. Lorenzo Cruger, Sr., 33°
Secretary General Holy Empire
As you are aware we will be meeting in our home city of Philadelphia in a few weeks, May 28 – 31, 2016. We hope that your plans are made, or at least started, by this time. Again as I have so often suggested that you make every effort to visit Fitzwater Street, where we are property owners. This year our two senior citizen buildings are collectively fifty (50) years old. The Scottish Rite House was opened in 1985 and the Scottish Rite Tower in 1995.

We have a lot to be proud of in the assistance that we have given to our seniors over the years, not only our residents, but others in the general area. As in most cities there are many things which are of interest. You may want to go on the internet and look up some things that may interest you and your guest. It will make the trip more worthwhile.

It may be worth adding a day to your trip, make the trip a vacation and a convention. There will be some in-house entertainment also for your enjoyment. Philadelphia has the Liberty Bell, Congress Hall, the first zoo, Betsy Ross House and many other historic places. Above all, remember to bring all of your medicines, they should be one of the first things that you pack.

First giving praise to my Lord and Savior for the many blessing he has bestowed upon me. By the time you receive this edition of the Bulletin, we should be getting ready for USC Annual Session which will be held in Philadelphia, PA, the “City of Brotherly Love”. We are very proud of our city and hope that you will take time out of your busy schedule to avail yourselves to all the amenities that this great city has to offer. This is the city where this great nation started. There are many historical sites to see, along with shopping and many great eateries. If your schedule permits, you should carve out an extra day or two to take advantage of our city. Hope to see you in Philadelphia.

As always I would like to thank SGC Dr. Solomon Wallace for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Editor and Ms. Renee Isaac, Ms. Deborah Miles and SGIG George T. Smith, Sr., for their contributions to the Bulletin.

Please continue sending articles and photos of interesting events that are happening in your respective Orient. Remember, the dead line for the fall edition is SEPTEMBER 1st and the spring edition is MARCH 1st. Please forward all articles to the Bulletin, in a timely manner.

Please send clear glossy photos separately with your article. Digitally generated originals preferred. Those photos received that are not of good print quality will not be featured in the Bulletin. Feel free to send your article formatted in Microsoft Word or equivalent and pictures via Email to embrookii@comcast.net, or hard copy of both your article and photos to 4 Independence Court, Upper Chichester, PA 19061. All pictures will become the property of the Bulletin.

First giving honor and praises to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ for all his blessings bestowed upon me and this fine organization, which God has allowed me to serve. As your Cathedral Secretary I am honored to serve our organization by managing and overseeing this historic and magnificent facility which is home to Prince Hall Scottish Rite Masons in the Northern Jurisdiction.

As we approach our 135th Annual Session it is with great expectations that many of you while in Philadelphia will find a moment in your leisure time to stop and visit our headquarters. Our Cathedral is not only our headquarters for the Northern Jurisdiction, it is a historical building which houses a library full of Masonic books, pamphlets and other informative literature. The building also has various Scottish Rite degree meeting rooms.

I encourage you to visit the Cathedral, it is open for operations Monday-Friday 10:00am-3:30pm, and weekends by appointments (for large groups). If you would like a tour of the facility, please contact us at 215-545-2443
Saving the African American Male:
“From Cradle to College”
A Vision – SGC Solomon Wallace, 33º
2016/2017 School Year Progress Reports
SGIG Horace J. Jackson, 33º, Executive Director

Orient of Michigan
SGIG Horace J. Jackson, 33º
Executive Director for Mentorship
“Cradle to College Program”

With the assistance and direction of the Deputies, the
dedication of Fraters in the participating Orient, we continue to have
great success with our Mentoring program throughout the Northern
Jurisdiction. Overall, the young men stay engaged with our
difficulties at the high school, they paid attention to us attempt to provide
and present them
them with useful information and at the same time present them
with examples of positive role models.

We are looking forward to another great year.

A condensed summary of the Progress Reports submitted by
each participating Orient, for the 2015-2016 School Year follows:

Orient of Illinois/Valley of Chicago
SGIG Melvin Frierson, 33º - Deputy of the Orient
SGIG Charles Burns, Jr., 33º - Assistant to the Deputy
and Coordinator

Participating Consistories: Western #28, Tyree #64, Hiram #51
Target School: Simeon Career Academy High School.

We will be starting a new Mentoring program at Bowen High
School located in Chicago, IL. They have an enrollment of 534
(predominantly Black) students. Our program at Simeon Career Academy High School is still on going.

In order to meet the needs of our Mentees, we are preparing
training classes for our new Mentors and continuing education
classes for our current Mentors. Our Mentoring program has
logged many contact hours with our Mentees and we are sure
we are making a difference in the future of our Mentees’ lives.

Orient of Massachusetts/Valley of Boston
SGIG Henry L. Owens, 33º - Deputy of the Orient
SGIG Ian G. Wilson - GIG Justin A. Petty
Mentoring Coordinators

School District: Boston Public Schools
Target School: Jeremiah Burke High School

Last winter, Boston was hit with some very devastating
and crippling winter weather. As a result, it became quite
difficult to get our program off the ground because of
difficulties at the high school, they paid attention to us attempt to provide
and present them
dangerous conditions and school cancellations. After many
years of planning and coordinating, we are happy to report
that our mentoring program has commenced and is off and
running with our first cohort of young males from the

Jeremiah Burke High School. Jeremiah Burke High is a
school within the Boston Public School system.

We began the academic year with a meet and greet on
October 9, 2015. In attendance were the Illustrious Deputy
Henry L. Owens, GIG Justin Petty, and SP Julius Wayne
Dudley. We met with 17 young men from the 9th Grade
Freshmen Academy. On November 6, 2015, SGIG Ian G.
Wilson, GIG Justin Petty, and SP Julius Wayne Dudley
held another mentoring session with a smaller group of 7
young men from the initial Freshmen Academy and had a
discussion on career goals and life experiences.

The mentoring committee has decided, that due to scheduling
and availability of Fraters and students, we will meet with the
students once a month. The young men that we are mentoring
have various challenges and different levels of learning, but for the most part, once you break the ice with them and get to
know them, they are some wonderful kids.

The Fraters in the Orient of Massachusetts continue to
support the Sovereign Grand Commander’s Vision: Saving
the African American Male from Cradle to College and we
hope to make a difference in the lives of these students.

Orient of Michigan/Valleys of Detroit and Grand Rapids
SGIG Christopher Buck, 33º - Deputy of the Orient
SGIG Horace J. Jackson, 33º - GIG Jimmie L. Taylor, 33º
Mentoring Coordinators

Wolverine Consistory #6
School District: Detroit Public Schools
Target School: Martin Luther King, Jr. Senior High School,
Detroit, Michigan
Mentors: SGIGs Horace J. Jackson (Coordinator), Clarence
Stone, Sr., Advisor, Wayne E. Phillips, GIGs John Clowney,
Kenneth Carter, Karl E. D’Abreu, Sr., and SP Michael Favors

Number of Mentees: 6
This is our seventh year at King High School as in past years,
we met with the school administration in October, in order to
establish our agreed upon Mentoring schedule for the year. We
will meet once per month from November through May. There
will not be a Mentoring session in January due to the Prince
Hall Family participation in the Martin Luther King, Jr.
Celebration and March (instead of a Mentoring Session, we
participated in the MLK Celebration and March).

We are grateful and appreciative of the continuing support we
receive from, Dr. Deborah Jenkins and Mr. Richard Walker, the
Principal and Assistant Principal, respectively.

Allen Academy - Number of Mentees: 30
SGIG Wayne A. Phillips continues to lead our program at Allen
Academy, with the enthusiastic support of the school’s staff
and the tremendous interest of the Mentees.

We are in the process of getting the necessary approvals for
starting a Mentoring Program at Chandler Park Academy High
School, in Harper Woods, Michigan. SP Michael Favors
teaches at the school and will be our liaison there once the
approvals are in place. Already, twenty-five young men have
expressed an interest in joining our program.

Homer E. Gains #112
School District: Grand Rapids Public Schools
Target School: Ottawa Hills High School, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Mentors: GIGs Jimmie L. Taylor (Coordinator), Dr. Walter M. Brame, Michael R. Weaver, and Lamont Cole (#6)

Number of Mentees: 5

The Commanders of the Rite of Homer E. Gaines Consistory #112 are still meeting once a week with our assigned students from Ottawa Hills High School. We also have gained the help of a coworker of GIG Weaver, Mr. Russell Hamlett and I am happy to report that we have all of our students on track. Of our five students, three are seniors and two are juniors. The seniors are all on track to graduate and all have been accepted at institutions of higher learning. The juniors are doing very well also with some of them taking college courses at the high school. Their GPAs range from 2.3 to 3.5. They have been active in the community helping to give out food to those in need, volunteering at the Grand Rapids Urban League, helping to clean up a camp that is designed for kids with special needs. We truly look forward to great things from all of our students in the near future.

Orient of New Jersey/Valley of Newark
SGIG Arthur R. Crawford, 33º - Deputy of the Orient
GIG Harry McDowell, 33º, Coordinator

School Districts: Newark, Pleasantville, and Atlantic City, New Jersey Public Schools
Target Schools: Weequahic H.S. (Newark), Washington Ave. (Pleasantville), New York Ave. School (Atlantic City)

We continue to monitor the situation with the Newark Board of Education, which has not changed since our last report. We will report any new developments when they occur.

We continue to investigate the possibility of establishing Mentoring Programs in Southern New Jersey. Hopefully we’ll have more information soon.

Orient of Ohio/Valley of Cleveland
SGIG Sidney D. Broadax, Jr., 33º - Deputy of the Orient
GIG Mark A. Ledger, Coordinator

Bezaleel Consistory #15
School District: Cleveland Metropolitan School District
District CEO: Dr. Eric Gordon
Target School: John Adams High School
Principal: Mr. Damion Holmes
Mentoring Liaison: Mr. Brian Simmons
Mentors: SGIGs Leonard B. Jackson (Chairmen), Carl A. Williams (Co-Chairman), Charles W. Hales (Asst. to the Deputy), and GIG Mark Ledger, Coordinator.

This is our seventh year at John Adams High School. Last year we volunteered 2,955 hours of service. This year, with the MWPGL of Ohio joining us the hours should increase.

On November 10, 2015 we presented a program at the John Adams H. S. attended by Mentors, Mentees, and parents and guardians. We explained our program and the need to assist as many young people as possible. And we were honored to have a very special guest speaker in the person of the Honorable Frank G. Jackson, Mayor of the City of Cleveland, Ohio. A good and informative time was had by all.

Orient of WA and OR/Valleys of Tacoma and Pasco
SGIG Daniel L. Lunsford - Deputy of the Orient
SGIG Julian Harris, Coordinator; Reported by GIG Julius W. Brown Jr.

School District: Tacoma School District
Superintendent: Dr. Carla Santorno
Target Schools: Foss High School, Tacoma, WA
School District: Pasco School District
Superintendent: Saundra Hill
Target Schools: Pasco High School, Pasco, WA
Mentors: SGIG Julian Harris, GIGs Carl T. McDaniel, Arthur T. Brody, Vincent King, Donald Bell, Fred Edwards, SPs Christopher Wallace, Nelson Trahan, James E. Wright, Level Brown, Jr., Waverly Moore, Ronald Carpenter, Zachary Fairly

Program Status
- Success Percentages continue to rise for young black males at Foss High School. SGIG Julian Harris is the major force for mentorship on this side of the mountain and his leadership is greatly appreciated.
- On the East side of the Mountains, in Pasco, WA. Fraters are making the same type of impact. Fraters all work diligently to mentor young men and to mold them into becoming better citizens for the future.

Our Mentoring Fraters are making this Orient better every day. All members have completed the Scottish Rite USC and the School District Applications. We are determined to directly affect the Drop-Out Rate of young African-American males. Looking for ways to reach the youth with what we have to offer is a full time job. We encourage every Frater in our Orient to give an hour or two a week to our future leaders to help mold what that world will look like.

The Orient of Washington and Oregon volunteered 235 hours of service to our communities.

From The Desk Of the Grand Prior
S.G.I.G. Wilton E. Blake, I

“It’s Time to Spring Forward”

When I view Merriam-Webster definitions of forward it makes me understand that I must be moving in a forward direction. Let’s look at the definitions of forward.

1. Near or belonging to the front part of something.
2. Moving or directed ahead of toward the front.
3. Moving toward the future or toward a more advanced state or condition.

Forward means that we are not to stand still, nor dwell on the past (the way we used to do it), but move in a new direction that will help us get to the front. Doing the same old things over and over will always keep us in the same old spot, without any movement in a forward direction. New vision and new direction is always good, and will help us learn new prospective and enable us to embrace those things that will help us to grow.

We cannot continue to do the same old things and expect to draw young people into our family. We must with the help of almighty God move forward and claim the wonderful blessings
that God has in store for our United Supreme Council Family. We live in a much different world than that of our mothers and fathers.

So In your prayer time please pray that we can move forward and grow.

**MEDICAL MESSAGE**
**Exercise and the Human Body**
*Submitted by GIG Dr. Kenneth Walton #41*
*Special Thanks to GIG Dr. Chester Pryor, II*
*Ill. Director, USC Medical Services*

Physical exercise is any bodily activity that enhances or maintains physical fitness and overall health and wellness. From boosting your mood to improving your sex life, find out how exercise can improve your life. The health benefits of regular exercise and physical activity are hard to ignore. It is performed for various reasons, including strengthening muscles and the cardiovascular system, honing athletic skills, weight loss or maintenance, and/or merely enjoyment.

Frequent and regular physical exercise boosts the immune system and helps prevent the “diseases of affluence” such as heart disease, cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, and obesity. It may also help prevent depression, help to promote or maintain positive self-esteem, improve mental health generally, and enhance an individual’s sex appeal or body image, which has been found to be linked with higher levels of self-esteem. Health care providers often call exercise the "miracle" or "wonder" drug alluding to the wide variety of proven benefits that it can provide.

**Aerobic exercise** (also known as cardio) is a type of physical activity that uses large muscle groups and causes your body to use more oxygen than it would while resting. The goal of aerobic exercise is to increase cardiovascular endurance (i.e. cycling, swimming, brisk walking, skipping rope, rowing, hiking, playing tennis).

**Anaerobic exercise** is physical activity used for strength or resistance training which can firm, strengthen, and tone your muscles, as well as improve bone strength (i.e. pushups, lunges, weight lifting). For people with heart disease and high blood pressure, being active boosts your high-density lipoprotein (HDL) or "good" cholesterol and decreases unhealthy triglycerides. This one-two punch keeps your blood flowing smoothly, which decreases your risk of cardiovascular diseases. Physical exercise has also been documented in reducing the risk of developing dementia, reducing the risk with breast cancer and colon cancer mortality (deaths) as well as lowering blood glucose (sugar). There are also certain heart medications (beta-blockers) that are effected by exercise (e.g. Inderal, propranolol, Lopressor, metoprolol, Tenormin, atenolol, Sectaral, acebutolol, Zebeta/bisoprolol and Corgard/nadolol) as they tend to slow down your heartbeat.

*It is very important to discuss with your healthcare provider(s) your interest in wanting to begin or enhance your physical activity prior to the start of any exercise regimen so that you can obtain optimal results.*

Greetings from the Orient of Alaska and the 53rd Council of Deliberations. Our council meeting convened at 9:00 am, Saturday, October 3, 2015. The meeting was held at the West Mark Hotel in Anchorage Alaska. The meeting opened in ritualistic form by Commander in Chief Doyle Williams and the Officers and members of Northern Lights Consistory #72. CIC Williams received the Most Illustrious Commander In Chief (MICIC) Clifford Hastings and honors were given from the other two consistories. MICIC proceeded by receiving the Grand Inspectors General of the Orient. He then received the MWGM Curtis E.B. Harris of the MWPHGL of Alaska who was escorted to the East by the MICIC, where he was given proper honors. MICIC proceeded with the meeting and called for the proclamation to be read by the secretary and presented his allocation. We have had two Grand Inspectors General to pass this year, Eugene Akers and Jesse J. Jones. May there be a special blessing in heaven waiting for them. MWGM Harris gave remarks and words of encouragement.

After lunch, MICIC and SGIG Andre Johnson Assistant to the Deputy attended the Loyal Ladies meeting to oversee their election and encouraging remarks. They then attended the Commanders of the Rite meeting, where Sublime Prince Vincent Joyner was selected to receive the 33rd degree in 2017. The Loyal Ladies under the supervision of State Loyal Lady Ruler Michelle Williams, her assistant Loyal Lady Ruler Samara Henry and other Loyal Ladies put on a Gold and White Ball on Saturday evening Oct. 3, 2015 at the West Mark Hotel. We had good food, laughter and dancing. It was very enjoyable.

Sunday morning we attended church service together at Eagle River Missionary Baptist church. Harmony Prevails

The 53rd Annual Council of Deliberation was held at Royal Eagle Lodge’s Masonic Temple in Nassau, New Providence on the weekend of September 19, 2015.

Our Host for the Session was Commander-in-Chief Eddison A. Dames, 33º and the Fraters of James E. Morley Consistory #73. We were pleased to receive with full honors, the representative of SGC Dr. Solomon Wallace, 33º, by Lieutenant Grand Commander, SGIG Basil L. Sands, 33º. Other distinguished dignitaries attending the meeting included Most Worshipful
Grand Master Ill. Leslie M. Dean, 33º, KYCGH and representatives of other Concordant Bodies in the Orient.

The Deputy’s Allocation and Officers Reports were well received and provided relevant information for future action.

During the meeting, Sublime Princes Selvyn L. Rolle, 32º, Godwin A. Cargill, 32º and Kenneth E.G. Davies, 32º were nominated to receive the 33rd Degree as members of the Class of 2017.

The following Council Officers were elected for the year 2015/2016: 1st Lt. Cmdr., SP Ishmael Bain, 32º, 2nd Lt. Cmdr., SP Uriel Johnson, 32º, Grand Secretary, SP Shane Moncur, 33º, Grand Treasurer, SP Earl O. Francis, 32º.

The Annual meeting of the Commanders of the Rite was conducted by President Ill. James S. Hutcheson, 33º, and supported by Treasurer Lorne Basden, 33º, Secretary Gurth Ford II, 33º, and Chaplain Eddison A. Dames, 33º. Ill. Dashville H. Williams, 33º, was elected as Vice President and representative for Commanders of the Rite in the Northern Bahamas.

The 4th Annual Scottish Rite Dinner was held during the evening where the Fraters were joined by family and friends for an evening of fellowship and recognition of members for their contribution to the progress of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in the Orient.

The Annual United Supreme Council Educational Grant was presented to Mr. Cameron Eugene Wallace, a student at the College of the Bahamas.

During the 66th Anniversary celebrations of the MWPHGL, Commonwealth of the Bahamas, the late GIG Illustrious Sir Lynden Oscar Pindling, 33º, former Prime Minister of the Bahamas, was honored posthumously by the Grand Lodge, with the titles of Honorary Past Master and Past Grand Master of the MWPHGL of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

The Declaration was made at the Annual “White Tie Ball” on February 27, 2016, under the Distinguished Patronage of his wife, Pictured above, Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling, and Governor General of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. MWGM Ill. Leslie M. Dean, 33º, KYGCH along with S.G.I.G. Roscow A.L. Davies, 33º, Deputy of the Orient and other members of the Grand Lodge paid an official visit with the Governor General prior to the Ball.

The 54th Annual Bahamas Council of Deliberation will be held on Saturday September 17, 2016 and hosted by the Fraters of James E. Morley Consistory #73 at Royal Eagle Lodge’s Masonic Temple in Nassau.

The Thirty-Seventh Annual Session of the Council of Deliberation of Eastern Canada was hosted by Beaver Consistory #74 on Saturday and Sunday September 26-27, 2015 at the Toronto Airport West Hotel, 5444 Dixie Road, Mississauga, Ontario L4W 2L2, where Ill. CIC, Rawle Hercules, 33º presided. Contribution to the Council’s success was made by Mount Royal Consistory #97 which was represented by Ill. CIC, Ryan Cox, 33º, its Officers and Members.

Saturday’s highlights of the Council were: The conferring of Consistorial Degrees on Perfect Knights Clifton Thompson and Dexter Agard under the direction of Ill. Rudolph Gordon, 33º.

The Medical Symposium was conducted on Saturday afternoon by Dr. Frederick Ofosu, 33º and Dr. Nelson Ubani, 33º. The Loyal Ladies of the Golden Circle attended the Symposium which dealt with various topics including Diabetes, Blood Pressure, Prostate Cancer and other related illnesses, and it was a tremendous success. They advised the Loyal Ladies and members that they should not be afraid to ask their Doctors for a second opinion. The Illustrious Sirs, Fraters and Loyal Ladies who attended this Seminar, were very appreciative for the valuable information relating to their health that was provided, and expressed their thanks to the Doctors for the Symposium. They said that they are looking forward to the next presentation in Mississauga on September 24, 2016. The Council wishes to thank Dr. Frederick Ofosu, 33º and Dr. Nelson Ubani, 33º for devoting time from their busy schedules to provide our members annually with valuable information and advice relating to their health.

We were honored to have the following dignitaries from other Orient who are attending this Annual Session. The Honorable John Huggins, 33º MWGM of Ontario and Jurisdiction; New York: S.G.I.G. Richard McNeal, 33º, S.G.I.G. George DeWitt, 33º, GIG Jehan Pierre N. du Pont, 33º; Michigan: S.G.I.G. Christopher Buck, 33º, Deputy and S.G.I.G Robert J. Meekins, 33º, S.G.I.G. Charles E. Ayler, 33º and GIG Michael Jordan, 33º; Illinois: PGM III. Millard Driscoll, 33º and GIG John L. Richardson, 33º.

The Annual Meeting of Beaver Assembly #88, Order of the Golden Circle was held on Saturday September 27, 2015. On the Deputy’s Annual visit to the Loyal Ladies to supervise the annual election of officers, Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief (MICIC), Carlisle N. Blackett, 33º, Ill. Deputy for the Orient was accompanied by Hon. John Huggins, 33º; MWGM of Prince Hall Masons, Ontario and the visiting dignitaries from the Orients of New York, Michigan and Illinois.
The Loyal Ladies were enthused with the delegation and the remarks from MWGM John Huggins and the visiting dignitaries. Loyal Lady Valerie Bailey was re-elected Loyal Lady Ruler and all elected officers were installed for the Year 2015/2016. The Loyal Ladies continue to work together, award scholarships, and devote their time to fundraising efforts, membership drives, and keep within their theme of Peace, maintain Unity and Love together, and have recruited and initiated more members for their Assembly.

The Annual Meeting of the Commanders of the Rite was held on Saturday Afternoon. MWGM John Huggins, 33° and the distinguished dignitaries from the Orients of New York, Michigan and Illinois accompanied the MICIC to the Annual Meeting of the Commanders of the Rite. The President of the Commanders of the Rite, Ill. Edgar Campbell, 33° welcomed the distinguished dignitaries to the meeting, conducted his business and received the Officers reports. He presented the Gavel of Authority to the MICIC, SGIG Carlisle N. Blackett to receive his report for 2014/2015 and conduct the election of Officers for 2015/2016. The nominee for the Class of 2017 was selected for submission to the Council of Deliberation for approval, and to submit his name for recommendation to the United Supreme Council. It was motioned and approved that all elected officers succeed themselves for 2015/2016.

A Banquet in honor of the Distinguished Guests was held on Saturday evening at which SGIG Dr. Frederick Ofosu, 33° presided as the Master of Ceremonies. The Banquet was enjoyed by all, and complimentary remarks were received from the visiting dignitaries.

Sunday morning activities began at 7.00 am, with the Annual Prayer Breakfast, which was sponsored by the Commanders of the Rite and held in honor of the visiting dignitaries.

At 8.30 am, MICIC, SGIG Carlisle N. Blackett, 33° officially opened the Council with the official roll call of the Council officers, reading of the Balustrade and the 2015 Proclamation. The Grand Inspectors Generals and Sovereign Grand Inspectors General Reginald R. Brothers, 33°, Charles Arthur Downes 33°, Frederick Ofosu, 33° and Rudolph Gordon, 33° of Eastern Canada were received in the Consistorial Chamber; The following dignitaries were received with appropriate Honors due to their rank: From New York: SGIG. Richard McNeal, 33°, SGIG George DeWitt, 33° and GIG Jean Pierre du Pont, 33°, From Michigan: SGIG Christopher Buck, 33°, Deputy for the Orient of Michigan, SGIG Robert J. Meekins, 33°, SGIG. Charles E. Ayler, 33° and GIG Michael Jordan, 33°; From Illinois: PGM III. Millard Driscoll, 33° and GIG John L. Richardson, 33°.

The MICIC SGIG Carlisle N. Blackett, 33°, directed that the Thirty Seventh Annual Session be brought to the Throne of Grace by the Ill. Grand Prior GIG Lawrence Edwards, 33°, who began with a hymn, followed by an inspiring prayer of fellowship and forgiveness, and remembered all those who were unable to take part in this Annual Session.

The Necrology Report was rendered by Ill. Grand Prior Lawrence 33°, to memorialize the passing of GIG Keith Trotman, GIG Merrick Daley and GIG Lloyd Wildman.

Reports were received from CIC Rawle Hercules of Beaver Consistory #74, CIC. Ryan Cox of Mount Royal Consistory #97, and the Fiscal Officers of the Council of Deliberation.

Prior to the MICIC’s Annual Allocation, Loyal Lady Ruler, Valerie Bailey and the Loyal Ladies of Beaver Assembly #88, Order of the Golden Circle joined the Council for an hour of devotional service. In his Allocation the MICIC addressed the global financial and economic crisis, and stated that the global recession which affected all countries is still of great concern to most governments; the climate change and the influx of Syrian refugees who are seeking refuge in Europe, Canada and other countries is of great concern to many countries; the need for more community involvement to address the problems with our youth, and emphasized the need to recruit new members and vigorously concentrate our efforts to reclaim those members who were lost as we strive to work together to increase the membership in Scottish Rite Freemasonry; and the concerns over ISIS and the threat of Islamic extremists and the reaction to these situations in the Western Capitals of the World.

Recognition for Dedicated and Devoted Services: At the 133rd Annual Session of the United Supreme Council, I received the Gold Medal Achievement Award which is the highest honor given by the USC for my dedicated and devoted service to the USC and Scottish Rite Masonry. At the 160th Annual Session of the MWHGL of Ontario and Jurisdiction, MWGM, Honorable John Huggins bestowed on me the "Title Honorary Past Grand Master of Ontario and Jurisdiction" in recognition for my many years of dedicated service in Prince Hall Masonry in the Jurisdiction of Ontario.

The 2015 Annual USCF Educational Grant was awarded to Alexander Marcelle Clarke from Ottawa, Ontario. SGIG Richard McNeal, 33°, brought remarks on behalf SGIG Grady Edge, 33°, and the Orient of New York, SGIG Christopher Buck, 33°, brought remarks on behalf of the Orient of Michigan and PGM Millard Driscoll, 33°, brought remarks on behalf of the Orient of Illinois.

MWGM John Huggins, 33°, brought greetings from the MWHGL of Ontario and Jurisdiction. He thanked the members of the Council of Deliberation for the respect shown to his office and congratulated Ill. Deputy Carlisle Blackett, 33°, for hosting a successful 37th Council of Deliberation.

The following Council Officers were nominated to succeed themselves for the year 2015/2016; 1st Lt. Cmdr., Ill. Frederick Ofosu, 33°; 2nd Lt. Cmdr., Ill. Rudolph Gordon, 33°; Grand Minister of State, Ill. Charles A. Downes, 33°; Grand Secretary, Ill. Reginald R. Brothers, 33°; Grand Treasurer. Ill. Tyrone Edwards, 33°.

Sublime Prince Jeffrey Foster of Beaver Consistory #74 was recommended to the USC for elevation in Detroit, Michigan, in May 2017.

The next Annual Session of the Council of Deliberation will be held in the City of Mississauga, Ontario on Saturday and Sunday September 24-25, 2016 at the Toronto Airport West Hotel, 5444 Dixie Road, Mississauga, Ontario L4W 2L2. The
next Annual Session of the Commanders of the Rite will be held at the same location on Saturday September 24, 2016.

An elections for Pikes Peak Consistory of Colorado Springs, CO, with SP Edward Davis being elected as the Commander in Chief and gave an inspiring acceptance speech. The Colorado Springs Commander of the Rite is in the process of sponsoring a fund raiser to establish funds to help needy Fraters and others who are in need.

An election for Mountain & Plains Consistory of Denver, CO, was held and GIG Timothy Clark was elected to serve as Commander in Chief.

An elections for Ben Lomond Consistory of Ogden, UT, with SP Bruce Anderson being elected to serve as Commander in Chief.

Plans are well under way for Denver’s Commanders of the Rite annual Spring Banquet. This year the honorees are GIG Tommie Lewis and Past Loyal Lady Ruler B. Louise Dave. Both have been members of the organization for many years. Past Loyal Lady Ruler Dave, has served the Masonic Body as Grand Worthy Matron and has worked on many other committees. GIG Lewis has served as Ways and Means Chairman for the Colorado Grand Lodge, Deputy of the Desert for the Shrine and served as Chairman for the Commanders of the Rite Spring Banquet for the past eleven years. Both honorees are deserving of this prestigious award.


The 122nd Annual Session of the Connecticut Council of Deliberation (CCOD), hosted by Hartford Consistory #80, convened on November 21, 2015 at the Bridge House at Ashlar Village in Wallingford, Connecticut.

Commanders of the Rite President Ill. Ronald Thomas opened the meeting at 8:00 am, where plans were developed for the coming year for the Commanders will play a more prominent role in Masonic education and fundraising.

State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler (SGLLR) Linda McLaughlin opened the State Grand Assembly. Following the meeting of the Commanders of the Rite all Illustrious Sirs attended the opening of the CCOD where host Consistory Ill. CIC Alfred Grady turned the meeting over to Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief (MICIC) Edward Cherry who then opened the 122nd Annual Session of the CCOD. MICIC Cherry then received the Sovereign and Grand Inspectors General of the Orient who were all received with honors according to their rank.

At 10:00 am, SGIG Henry Owens, Deputy for the Orient of Massachusetts and his Assistant SGIG Ian Wilson were escorted into the Chambers by Ill. Harold Grey, Illustrious Master of Ceremonies.

The Council was favored by the attendance of SGLLR Linda McLaughlin and her entourage. SGLLR brought greetings and introduced her Grand Cabinet and Loyal Lady Rulers Sonda Thomas and Joyce Lundy.

The Council then received our newly elected Most Worshipful Grand Master Ill. Ellis G. Simpson, Jr., MWHGLE of CT, who brought greetings.

Following the Council reports, MICIC Cherry called CIC Alfred Grady Pictured left; of Hartford Consistory #80 to the Altar when he proceeded to award him with the Deputy’s Consistory of the Year Award for Hartford #80 and Commander-in-Chief of the Year for his outstanding service as Commander-in-Chief to Hartford #80 and to the Orient.

The Necrology Report was rendered by Ill. Grand Prior Emeritus Thomas Mallory where a Lodge of Sorrow was opened with the memorializing of Sublime Princes Lawrence Young, Fred E. Johnson and Charles McCarthy; Illustrious Sirs Roosevelt Davis, Warren B. Stewart, and Leonard Pittman. MICIC Edward Cherry rendered his Allocution and he gave an extended summary of his activities for the past year; he spoke of the highlight of the 134th Annual Session which was the displaying of the bronze bust of Sovereign Grand Commander Wallace. He noted the sad loss that we all sustained with the passing of the memorialized Brethren; he spoke of the State of the Rite where harmony prevails and a visible improvement in the administration and community participation of the two Consistories. He spoke of the State of the Union and the State of the State. He welcomed Ill. Lionel Jones and Ill. Harold Grey who were advanced in rank to that of Sovereign Grand Inspector General Emeritus of the United Supreme Council and
Ill. Jerry Solomon who was coroneted a Grand Inspector General of the Thirty-Third and Last Degree, Honorary member of the United Supreme Council. The MICIC spoke of the work of the Golden Circle and the Commanders of the Rite and offered his continued support.

Before closing he looked to the future by proposing that we continue with our Strategic Planning where we can anticipate the future, establish objectives, develop policies and prioritize our steps for accomplishment of these goals. He then closed his address with a hope that we would inspire our members; provide opportunities for our members to enhance their lives and provide enjoyable programs and fellowship activities for all our members.

SGIG Leon J. Battle accomplished a final “Fly-By and Salute”

The Orient of Delaware convened its 125th Council of Deliberation (DCOD) Session on October 16-17, 2015 at the Hilton Gardens, North DuPont Highway Dover, Delaware. Our guests were received into our Council on October 17th. They were: SGIG Melvin J. Bazemore, Grand Minister of State, SGIG Daniel R. Poole, and Deputy for the Far East, SGIG Charles H. Bush, Jr., Assistant to Deputy Poole and SGIG Paul A. Barry Deputy of the District of Columbia. Business of the Council was accomplished as well as attendance of the Fraters at a breakfast held by the Ladies of the Golden Circle.

The Orient of Delaware honored two of our members at our annual Banquet. GIG Franklin Chandler and GIG Lewis F. Williams, both of C.P. Houston Consistory #119, Valley of Dover Delaware was honored for their long list of accomplishments.

During the Banquet, we were honored to present three Scholarships in the amount of $500.00 each to students on behalf of the United Supreme Council and the Orient of Delaware. They were to Miss. Erica J. Reese, Miss. Tiamond J. Williams, and Miss. Meazia S. Wilson.

SGIG Leon J. Battle has served as Deputy for the Orient of Delaware for 18 years. A native Rocky Mount North Carolina, the son of Josephine and Oliver Battle. SGIG Battle attended Elementary and High School in Nashville, NC. At the age of seventeen, his junior year he left high school to enlist in the United State Army. He served in Korea from 1950 to 1951, discharge in 1953. He returned to civilian life to finish his senior year in high school and graduated in 1954. After a short time living in New York, he return to NC and enlisted in the United States Air Force where he served a total of 28 years. SGIG Battle spent two (2) tours in combat and many other places in the US and abroad. SGIG Battle has been married to Mrs. Geraldine Dunston Battle for sixty one (61) years. He is the father of three children, Leonidas (deceased), Terrence and Rosalyn. He is blessed with five (5) Grandchildren. SGIG Battle’s military career ended in retirement in 1978 and he retired from the Civil Service in 1996.

In 1955 while serving in Little Rock Arkansas, he petitioned Richmond Lodge #2 for membership and was accepted, initiated and made a Master Mason in June 1955. He demitted to Kansas Jurisdiction in 1968, then to Prudence Lodge #6 Dover, Delaware in 1972. There he served as Worshipful Master, Secretary, and Treasurer. Later he served as Patron and Grand Patron for the Order of Eastern Star. He was appointed Deputy for the Orient of Delaware in May 1998. In February of this year Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Solomon Wallace accepted SGIG Battle’s resignation as Deputy. Sovereign Wallace stated, “You have been dependable, faithful, and dedicated.” “I commend you for supporting the United Supreme Council Programs, your valuable services were most highly appreciated.”

SGIG Battle has served us well. Now he salutes us and continues to serve as the Chairman of Scholarships for the Orient of Delaware” We wish SGIG Leon J. Battle much happiness and success in his new endeavors.

The 22nd Annual Session of the Europe Council of Deliberation (ECOD), was hosted by Eureka Consistory #113, convened on September 6-7, 2015 at the Ysenburger Hof Hotel Langenselbold, Germany. Illustrious Commander-in-Chief (CIC), SP Bobby Lee opened the Consistory at 12:00 p.m. to receive the Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief (MICIC) Carlton K. Crider. Following the reception of MICIC Crider the Sovereign and Grand Inspectors General of the Orient of Europe were received. Following the reception of the members of the Orient the following visiting dignitaries were received: Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Robert Cassidy, WA Jurisdiction, Right Eminent Commander Thomas Johnson, WA Jurisdiction, Deputy of the Desert for Western Europe, Frank Joshua, Deputy for the Orient Gene Washington, Southern Jurisdiction and his COD staff. Following the reception for visiting dignitaries the MW Grand Master Gregory D. Wraggs Sr. MWPGL for Washington and Jurisdiction was received by MICIC Crider and escorted to the east by the Grand Master of Ceremonies where Grand Honors were given.

After the roll call of Consistories, Council Officers, Sovereign and Grand Inspectors General, the Proclamation was read. MICIC Crider then seated the Order of the Golden Circle and brought up to the dais the State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Patricia Cameron-John and then delivered his Annual Allocution which was received by Deputy Gene Washington with an enthusiastic response.
The annual banquet was held Sunday evening during which two scholarships grants were presented to the area student Jabari Noel on behalf of the United Supreme Council Benevolent Foundation. Another grant was presented to Alisha Crider on behalf of the James B. Sloan, Commanders of the Rite.

Individual awardees were the following: SP Reiss Byrd, GIGs Leondre Darrington, Jesse Dayton, Justin Espinoza, Robert Janey, SP Sharif Rahim, GIGs Dennis Randall, Carnell E. Smith, Drexil Smothers, Garry Tyler. “Orient' Of the Year Awards” awardees were for Consistory, Gustave M. Solomon #101, Commander-in-Chief, SP Sharif Rahim, Gustave M. Solomon #101, Sublime Prince, SP Reiss Byrd, Booker T. Alexander #117, Treasurer, GIG Howard Martin, Booker T. Alexander #117, and Secretary, GIG Willie Nelson, Eureka #113.

The next morning, Monday, September 7, 2015, at 8:00 am the James B. Sloan Commanders of the Rite held its annual breakfast to discuss pertinent information with the Grand Inspectors General, visitors, and held its annual elections. The following are the Commanders of the Rite elected officers for 2015-2016, President, GIG Leondre Darrington, 1st Vice President, GIG Robert Janey, 2nd Vice President, GIG Ronald Backer, Treasurer, GIG Denise Randall, Secretary, GIG Carnell E. Smith, and Chaplain, GIG Enrique John.

The COD held its annual elections and installation of the staff. The results of the nomination were: 1st Lieutenant Commander, GIG Denise Randall, 2nd Lieutenant Commander, GIG Garry Tyler, Minister of State, GIG Robert Janey, Grand Treasurer, SP Sharif Rahim, and Grand Secretary, GIG Wilbert Clyburn.

The 22nd Annual Session of the Europe Council of Deliberation was closed with all present uniting in the Fraternal Chain of Unity and prayer given by, SGIG James Lavender, Booker T. Alexander #117.

The Far East 45th Annual Council of Deliberation (FECOD) was held in the Republic of South Korea. The FECOD has become a family reunion for those involved, bringing together the Far East members from the USA and four other countries. This year with the approval of SGC Dr. Solomon Wallace 33° the FECOD was held in conjunction with the Far East Districts Session (FEDS) for the MWPHGL of Washington. This allowed for maximum participation with all Masonic bodies with coordinated activities though out the week. We would like to thank MWGM Gregory D. Wraggs for his unwavering support and participation. He truly set the example of his motto “Working Together for One Common Bond”.

On April 9, 2015, 6:30 am the FECOD was opened in due form by Ill. Commander-In-Chief Riviere Cools, 32° and the officers and members of J.C. Logan Consistory #114, who hosted the FECOD. This event was held at the Dragon Hill Lodge Najee Ball Room, Yongsan and Seoul, South Korea. CIC Riviere Cools, 32° received MICIC Daniel R. Poole, 33°, into his, FECOD. He was accorded Grand Honors and escorted to the East.

MICIC Poole proceeded by receiving the Commanders in Chiefs from all five (5) Consistories, SGIGs, GIGs and representatives from several Prince Hall Masonic bodies in attendance were received, accorded proper honors and welcomed to the Orient of the Far East.

MICIC Poole received the Honorable Gregory D. Wraggs, 33°, Grand Master for the MWPHGL of Washington and Jurisdiction. Scottish Rite honors were rendered and MICIC Poole escorted MW Gregory D. Wraggs, 33° to the East. MWGM Wraggs commented on how overwhelmed he was with the support and participation in the FECOD saying this is “AWESOME” and encouraged all to keep “doing it”.

The day proceeded with the reading of Consistory reports and reports from various committees. Training and education was provided by several members of the Orient. Presentation were made by CIC Eric Harris, 32° – History of Keystone Consistory #85, GIG Gregory Nicholson, 33° – Furniture, GIG Glen L. Downes, 33° – Brief History of the USC, SGIG Damien Hall, 33° (Orient of Europe) – Campments.

Six Subline Princes were nominated to receive the Honorary Thirty Third Degree (Class of 2017): Marshall E. Alexander Jr., Alfred D. Wilson, Darrell Hixon, Robert M. Pincney, Rinza Burton, Antonio M. Wilson, congratulation to these fine Subline Princes.

The evening also consisted of the Annual Scottish Rite Banquet and Toast of Obligations and a wonderful meal served to soft ballroom music. Several scholarships and charitable donation were presented to the following Organization by the Orient of the Far East, MWPHGC Heroines of Jericho Scholarship, MWPHGC WA OES Scholarship and Seoul American Middle School Bullying Program.

Pictured right; MICIC Poole as he presents GIG Glen L. Downes with the Dwight R. Johnson, Service Before Self Award. Ill. Downes will join the other distinguished gentle-men who have been presented this award. In 2014, GIG Ervin MC White and in 2015, SGIG Harry Jernigan, GIGs Ron Muse, Lorenzo Johnson and Rodneay Mathews all received this distinguished award. This award is the highest award in the Far East Orient for demonstrated service before self in all they do.

SGIG Sidney Thomas received the Deputy’s Excellence Award and SGIG Bill Lowery; President of the Far East Commander of the Rites (FECOR) received the Deputy’s Meritorious Service Award.

MICIC Daniel R. Poole 33° gave closing remarks and announced that the 46th Annual FECOD will be held in Mainland Japan and the host Consistory will be John J. Story.
Midwest Regional Conference of Grand Masters and Masons, included the Jurisdiction of Iowa hosting the 44th Annual Session of the USC held in the Valley of Chicago May 2015. MWGM Sauls stressed the need for all Masons in Iowa to help out and be a part of this great event. After MWGM Sauls' remarks MICIC Sloan stated that the Fraters in the Orient of Iowa will be there to help in this event.

The ICOD called off for lunch and resumed business to include reports of committees. After all reports had been received, MICIC Sloan held the election of officers and after all business was concluded the Consistorial Chamber formed a circle and had a closing Prayer.

At the Annual Banquet that evening the usual Scottish Rite Toast was given to start an evening of fun. During the banquet the Deputy had the honor of capping newly elevated Sublime Prince Mark Johnson and giving him his USC initiation material Pictured right. He is a member of Alexander G. Clark Consistory #68 and a member of Hiram Lodge #19 in Davenport, IA. The banquet also included the presentation of the Benevolent Foundation Education Grants being awarded to Lyshae Rodgers who will be attending Brigham Young University and Arika Allen who will be attending the University of Iowa.

The night was not over as education grants from Alexander G. Clark #68 of $250.00 each went to Gabriella George who will be attending the University of Iowa and Jabir Guy who will be attending North Dakota College of Science. William F. Powell #46 gave a $250.00 education grant to Brittni Suraci who is attending Des Moines Community College.

SGIG Donald W. Austin president of the Commanders of the Rite was given time to explain an event being planned. It will be The Commanders of The Rite 1st Annual Recognition Banquet. To kick of this annual banquet we will honor the (7) Worshipful Masters of the Lodges in the Iowa Jurisdiction and will be held on June 25, 2016. After all banquet activities done were completed, the Benediction was given to end a night of fun had by all.

The 95th Iowa Council of Deliberation (ICOD) was opened at 9:15 am by SP George Lane, 32º, CIC of the host Consistory William F. Powell #46. He invited Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief (MICIC) SGIG Owen T. Sloan, 33º be escorted in and given honors. MICIC Sloan then received Most Worshipful Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons for the Jurisdiction of Iowa Honorable Eddie N. Sauls, III. MWGM Sauls was given honors of his office and escorted to a seat in the east. MICIC Sloan then called up SGIG Donald W. Austin and SGIG Osumana V. Cassell and they were given honors of their office. MICIC Sloan then called up the Grand Inspectors General present and they received honors.

MICIC Sloan called on Grand Secretary SP Kenneth Reed for the roll call of Consistories, officers, and then the reading of the Proclamation and Balustrades of the 94th Session. MICIC Sloan then lowered the chamber to the 30th Degree for the purpose of elevating Knight Kadosh Mark Johnson to the 32nd Degree of Sublime Prince. CIC Wendell G. Terry, 33º of Alexander G. Clark #68 took the sword of authority and with the help of the body preformed the Degrees of Grand Inspector Inquisitor Commander and Sublime Prince on Knight Kadosh Mark Johnson.

After the usual business of committee appointments and the Council agenda was completed MICIC Sloan gave the sword of authority to SGIG Donald W. Austin to preside over the Allocation. Deputy Sloan’s Allocation contained references to the loss of three (3) Grand Inspectors General that have gone across that sea of no return, these (3) Fraters have been stalwarts of Scottish Rite Masonry in this Orient of Iowa and they will be missed dearly by us all. The Allocation also included topics on the need to relight the fire of Scottish Rite in order to attract new men, the need to be active in our local cities, Community Organizations, Churches, Schools, to be about what we claim to be. In the Allocation MICIC Sloan gave highlights from the 134th Annual Session of the USC held in the Valley of Chicago May 2015. MICIC Sloan thanked the Fraters for their donations to the Bronze Bust of our Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Solomon Wallace, 33º. The Bust was un-veiled after the Sunday Morning Church Service and placed on display. MICIC Sloan then thanked SGIG Osumana V. Cassell, GIGs Lynn Lewis, Maurice Evans and Jameel Hameed for serving as honor guards along with himself while the Bust was on display.

After the Allocation MICIC Sloan called on MWGM Eddie N. Sauls, III for his remarks to the Fraters. MWGM Sauls remarks included the Jurisdiction of Iowa hosting the 44th Annual Midwest Regional Conference of Grand Masters and Masons, and the 29th Annual Conference of Grand Chapters and Eastern Stars here Des Moines next March 17-20, 2016. MWGM Sauls stressed the need for all Masons in Iowa to help out and be a part of this great event.
participation and cooperation. The Deputy praised the various committees, namely the Degree Team, Souvenir Journal Committee, Transportation Committee, Ladies Entertainment Committee, Friday Night Entertainment, et cetera. The Deputy reminded the “Board” members to keep up the enthusiasm that was generated during the 134th United Supreme Council’s Grand Session. He challenged the Board to support the Orient’s financial activities, seek grant funding, and participate in community projects.

The Emergency Health Team headed by SGIG Charles Burns and GIG Floyd Woods, Jr., opened on Friday and remained open until 98th Annual Session closed on Sunday.

In the afternoon, the 31st and 32nd degree was bestowed on some twenty-one (21) Prince Hall Master Masons from the state of Illinois. Also, the state Commanders-of-the Rite held its Annual Meeting, GIG Floyd Woods, Sr., presided. During the meeting, a statewide Commanders-of-the Rite election was had, all previous elected officers were retained for the ensuing year.

Friday’s activities ended with a stupendous medley of “Gospel” songs lead by SGIG Lafayette Gatlin and the Christland Singers.

Saturday, October 17, 2015 at 8:00 am CST Marquette/Joliet Consistory #104 opened in ritualistic form for the purpose of receiving the Most Illustrious Commander-In-Chief (MICIC), Melvin Frierson, 33°.

At 8:30 am CST the 98th Illinois Council of Deliberation was declared opened by the MICIC Frierson. The MICIC received Sovereign Grand Inspectors General (SGIGs) from the Orient of Illinois (PHA) namely SGIGs Charles Stewart, Lafayette Gatlin, Homer Walton, Neal Carson, DePlessie Drew, Clarence Hayes, James A. Mitchell, Leroy Barnes, Charles Burns, Warren Gipson, W. W. Jackson, and Gregory Boyd. The aforementioned SGIGs were escorted to the East and given honors. SGIG Robert Meekins of Michigan (PHA), SGIG Benny Grisham of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction and SGIG Gregory Clark of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction were also received and given honors. The MICIC received newly elected MWGM Dwayne A. Smith of Prince Hall Masons for the State of Illinois. MWGM Smith was escorted to the East and given proper honors.

After the greetings and felicitations, the MICIC gave his annual address. In his address, he thanked God for all the blessings bestowed on him. The MICIC also thanked SGC Solomon Wallace for giving him the opportunity to serve the Orient of Illinois (PHA). The MICIC reported the “State of the Nation” is in a terrible state of affairs…he cited poverty, homelessness, crime, brake down in family values, and politics are problematic to say the least.

The MICIC spoke briefly about the Orient’s mentoring program, emergency team, and dental services. He gave an overview of the Deputy’s Conference held January 8 - 10, 2015 in Philadelphia, PA. He also reported fraternal relations in the Orient of Illinois remains good with the Grand Lodge as well as with the appendant and concordant Masonic bodies. He stated relationship with ICOD NMJ is good and growing. He also reported good relations exist with the other twenty-five Orient of Illinois Councils.

The Afternoon Session included the business of the Orient. Also during the afternoon Session, the Scholarship Committee reported twelve (12) five hundred dollar Scholarships/Educational Awards were issued to the following recipients; Shawntina M. Jones, Michaela Dew, Jasmine Bates, Jordan T. Carter, Kayla Zenon, Dyamond Parker, Je Taun Hyatt, Jerry Hickman, Jalen Holiday, Kamryn Nichols, McKenna Carson and R. Dalacy Peters, III. The Committee also reported two (2) recipients graduated. Ms. Britney Bates (Florida A & M, Magna Cum Laude in Health Science), August 2015, and Ms. Shawntina M. Jones (Eastern Illinois University Honor Student in Sociology, December 2015). The Committee thanked the United Supreme Council for its $1000.00 Educational Grant.

The day ended with the ICOD Annual Awards Banquet. Over two hundred and fifty (250) persons were in attendance. Several awards were issued namely the Frank M. Summons Stellar Award, Scottish Rite Mason of the Year Award, Peer of the Year Award, Scottish Rite Mason of the Year Award, and the renowned Meritorious Service Award. Also during the Banquet, an “in house” charitable raffle was had.

The MICIC ended his address by thanking the membership for the support and cooperation given him during the fiscal year.

Shortly after the MICIC’s annual address…. he called on the Fraters and Loyal Ladies to join in a Joint Memorial Service. The Memorial Services was highlighted by a “Power Point” presentation of each member who demised during the year. Namely GIGs Ernest L. Williams, Charles McMillan, Archie Senter (PGM), Jimmy Thomas, Theodore Green, Lawrence James, Davis C. James, Isaac Washington, Fred Money, and Max Smith; SPs Prestal Cranes, Gregory Fletcher, and DeMelin Lockett; and LLs Marcella Green, Rosalie C. Guy, Zenobia Alexander, Francis Sykes, and Emily Blanton. In addition, songs, prayers, and acknowledgements were offered in honor of the demised.

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Sunday, October 18, 2015 the MICIC opened the morning Session to resume the business of the Council. During the Session, a “planning Committee” was established to address the celebration of the Orient’s 100th Annual Session in 2017. The morning session included reports from various committees. In addition, an annual report from the Commander-In-Chief of each Consistory was presented. The MICIC announced the nominees for the 33rd and last degree for the “Class” of 2017. They were Sublime Princes Kenneth Johnson, Charles Cooper, Jr., Alvin Jones, Robert Q. Gary, Phillip Douglas, Anthony Jackson, Anthony Griffin, Ronald Richardson, Darwin Gordon, Kenneth Page, Dannell Vinson, and Nathaniel Hansra.

The 98th Session closed at 11:43AM CST. MICIC Melvin Frierson presided.
Activity Around the Orients

Orient of the Far East

Pictured: Members of the Orient of the Far East at the 45th Annual Session with Ill. Daniel R. Poole, Deputy for the Orient and MWGM Gregory D. Wraggs, MWHGL of Washington.

Orient of Connecticut

Pictured L to R: SGIGs Lionel Jones, Charles Paris, Harold Rey, Floyd Bagwell, Ian Wilson Asst. to Deputy for MA, Henry Owen, Deputy for MA, Edward Cherry Deputy for CT, Ill. Ellis Simpson MWGM for the MWHGL of CT, MWSGW Ill. Arnold Holmes, host CIC Alfred Grady #80, RWGW Ill. Alfonso Robinson and CIC Anthony Dawson #7 at the 2015 Connecticut COD.

Orient of Ohio

Pictured: Members of the OCOD who received the Outstanding Service Award during the Ohio Council of Deliberation Session.

Officers and Members of Joshua David Kelly #27. Back Row L to R: SP Jerome Hopkins, GIG Frederick Wisdom, SP Floyd Williams, SP Andre Waller, MW&PM, SP Freeman Marion. Front Row; SP John Jenkins, SP Cecil Austin, Newly Elevated SP Raymond Hightower, CIC SP Frankie White, Newly Elevated SP Phillip Moore and GIG Johnny Cummings Overseer for NE.

Orient of Massachusetts

L to R: SGIGs Robert Parks, H. Grey, Nicholas Locker, Charles Paris, MWGM Rueben Meade, MWHGL of MA, SGIGs Conrad Luster, Overseer for RI, Henry Owens, Deputy for MA, Edward Cherry, Deputy for CN, Ian Wilson, Asst. to Deputy MA, at the Massachusetts COD.

Orient of Pennsylvania

Pictured L to R: SGIG Thomas Sturgeon Deputy for PA (NMJ) presenting SGIG Leonard A. Heard with a gift of a Double Headed Eagle to commemorate the time that they shared as MWGMs of PA. They served during the same years.

Orient of the Bahamas

Pictured L to R: MWGM Ill. Leslie M. Dean, G.G. Dame Marguerite Pindling, SGIG Roscow A.L. Davies and Deputy for the Bahamas prior to the BCOD White Tie Ball.

Orient of New Jersey

Pictured: Members of the OCOD who received the Outstanding Service Award during the Ohio Council of Deliberation Session.

Orient of Nebraska

L to R: SGIGs Robert Parks, H. Grey, Nicholas Locker, Charles Paris, MWGM Rueben Meade, MWHGL of MA, SGIGs Conrad Luster, Overseer for RI, Henry Owens, Deputy for MA, Edward Cherry, Deputy for CN, Ian Wilson, Asst. to Deputy MA, at the Massachusetts COD.
Pictured L to R; SP Harold Rose, Brittni Suraci recipient of the William F. Powell Consistory #46 Award CIC SP George Lane and GIG Lynn Lewis.

Pictured L to R; Educational Grant Presentation Ill. Eddison A. Dames, CIC #73, SGIG Roscow A.L. Davies, Deputy, Cameron E. Wallace & MWGM Ill. Leslie M. Dean, KYCGH.

Pictured L to R; At the New Jersey COD Annual Luncheon, SGIG Arthur Crawford, Deputy for NJ and SGIG John Bettis present awards to four (4) deserving Honorees; SGIGs Gary Sylvester, Harvey D. Saunders, Robert L. Oglesby, Sr., and William J. Ewing, Esq.

Pictured; GIG Carlton Crider, Overseer for Europe, presenting James B. Sloan, Commanders of the Rite Educational Award to recipient Ms. Alisha Crider.


Pictured; GIG Wendell G. Terry, presenting the USCBF Educational Award to recipient Arika Allen.
Pictured: The St. Cyprian Episcopal Church Celestial Infernos Youth Steel Band under the direction of GIG Justin A. Petty at the 46th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., breakfast held on January 28, 2016.

Orient of Massachusetts

Pictured: LL Sonda Thomas and LLs of New Haven Assembly, CIC Anthony Dawson and SGIG Harold Grey sponsored their Annual Christmas Party with the residence of the St. Luke’s Church Senior Citizen’s Apartment.

Orient of Connecticut

Pictured: SGIG Daniel Poole Deputy for the Far East and SGIG Sidney Thomas 1st Lt. Cmdr. for the FECOD making a donation to the American Seoul Anti Bullying Program.

Orient of the Far East

Pictured: SGIG Henry Owens, Deputy for MA, GIG Justin Petty and SP Julius W. Dudley shown with students for the Massachusetts Mentoring Program “Cradle to College”

Orient of Massachusetts

Pictured: GMS #101 donated $200 and raised $800 to support Kaiserslautern High School Future Business Leaders of America

Orient of Europe

Pictured: GMS #101 donated $200 and raised $600 to support Kaiserslautern High School Black History of the Month Club

Orient of Europe

The Officers and member of the Minnesota Council of Deliberation in attendance at their Healthy Masons, Healthy Lodges and a Healthy Future medical screening.
Pictured: Members of the PACOD and the Prince Hall Family at the 2015 PA Council of Deliberation, prior to the Deputy's Allocation.

Pictured: The Officers and members of the PA State Assembly, Order of the Golden Circle, on their visit to the 2015 PA Council of Deliberation.

Pictured; CSGA SGLLR Linda McLaughlin and her entourage being welcomed into the 122nd Connecticut Council of Deliberation.

Pictured L to R: LLR Gwen Devera-Waden, LLS Velena Dohn, PLLR Shadrine Jackson, LLT Ancella Thompson, LLR Jennifer Boyd, LLAR Edwina Lane and SGLLR Patricia Cameron-John assembled and donated items for Thanksgiving baskets and donated them to the Military and local community.

Pictured: The Officers and members of the OCOD and OSGA, Order of the Golden Circle, at the 2015 OCOD Annual Memorial Service.

Pictured L to R: SGIG Carlisle N. Blackett, Deputy for Canada, LLR Valerie Bailey and SGIG Rudolph Gordon at the Canada COD.

Pictured: III. CIC GIG W. Spencer Person Jr., 33° of Ophir Consistory #48 and LLR Joanne M. Cain of Lady Orchid Assembly #44 and their memberships “Working Together to Improve Their Community” (Story on Page #31).
“Our History Should not be a Mystery—Part IV”
Do You Know Where Your Consistories Originated?

Submitted by; GIG Reginald B. Stewart 33º

Going into this 4th edition of the series I continue to receive very positive feedback. I am pleased that Fraters enjoy my work. I hope that in reading these articles it has encouraged some to begin to or delve deeper into their own masonic history.

An immense amount of thanks is reserved for Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Solomon Wallace 33º for allowing this piece residence in the magazine. The Editor of our publication, SGIG Edward M. Brooks II, 33º deserves accolades for the yeoman’s job he performs in putting it all together. Also, acknowledgement is graciously bestowed upon the administrative backbone of our organization—Ms. Deborah Miles and Ms. Renee Isaac.

Miami Consistory #26
Valley of Dayton - Orient of Ohio
Established prior to 1906; Chartered November 11, 1911

This Consistory was originally named St. Matthews #26 as established by a group from Indiana belonging to the Milton F. Fields faction. Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander James F. Rickards 33º came to Troy, Ohio and reorganized the Fraters. The original charter of the consistory states “. . . in the Valley of Troy or within 25 leagues of the same . . .” Twenty-five leagues is equivalent to 75 miles, so the move to Dayton was within due bounds. Sometime between July 1914 and February 1915, a few years after coming under the obedience of the United Supreme Council, Northern Jurisdiction, the name was changed from “St. Matthews” to “Miami,” but no definitive reason has been discovered. It can be surmised that due to a previously chartered Consistory in Toledo bearing the same name, it was necessary to change the name of the Dayton body to eliminate confusion.

Over the years much confusion has occurred about why and how the name “Miami” came about. The city of Dayton rests in the Miami Valley area of Ohio. The valley was named after the Miami River that runs through it. The cities of Dayton and Troy both rest on the shore of the Great Miami River.

This Consistory is the proud home to at least four Gold Medal of Achievement winners in persons of SGIG Carl L. Wilson 33º in 1979; SGIG James B. Simmons Jr. 33º in 1981; SGIG Oliver W. Sumlin 33º in 2005; and SGIG Homer L. Buchanan 33º in 2011.

At least two members will be forever memorialized by having a class of Grand Inspectors General named in their honor. SGIG Homer H. Collins 33º, a charter member of this Consistory was named in the Collins-Wooten Class of 1983 and SGIG Carl L. Wilson 33º was honored for the 2007 class.

Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Joe L. Smith was president of his class—the Joseph C. Williams and Grady B. Hinkle Class of 1997.

This consistory has won the Curtis F. Green Trophy for most increased attendance in the large consistory category at least twice. Last, but not least, the ever so eloquent, silver-tongued master of flowery language, Grand Master of Ceremonies, SGIG Jerry D. Springer 33º is a member.

Thanks to SGIG Sidney D. Broadnax Jr. 33º, Deputy of the Orient of Ohio, King Solomon #24, Valley of Cincinnati:

SGIG Ronald A. Ogletree 33º, Miami #26, Valley of Dayton, both of the Orient of Ohio for their assistance.

James E. (Ernald) Morley Consistory #73
Valley of Nassau (New Providence) - Orient of the Bahamas
Chartered May 14, 1962

This Consistory is one of five established in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Originally named “Bahamas” due to its geographic location, it was the United Supreme Council, Northern Jurisdiction’s first foray outside of the territorial bounds of the United States. It began life as “Bahamas Consistory No. 73” during the tenue of Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander George W. Crawford 33º. After being organized by a future Sovereign Grand Commander in the person of then Special Deputy Booker T. Alexander 33º (both served as Most Worshipful Grand Master of their respective jurisdictions at the same time), SP James E. Morley 32º was installed as the first Commander-in-Chief. He was subsequently elevated to the 33º in May 1963 and crowned an Active member in May 1967.

SGIG James E. Morley 33º had an extensive civic as well as masonic resume. It included receiving the “Queen’s Certificate” in the name of HER MAJESTY Queen Elizabeth the Second for community service; owning his own business; serving three nonconsecutive terms as MWGM; serving as Worthy Grand Patron; serving as Deputy of the Orient; and a host of other accolades too numerous to list.

In September 2006, the name was changed from “Bahamas Consistory #73” to “James E. Morley Consistory #73” to reflect his leadership as the first consistorial leader of Scottish Rite Masonry in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and his overall impact to Prince Hall Freemasonry there as well.

Assuredly Ill. Morley will live on in the annals of history as the 1992 class of GIGs bear his name: Alexander-Morley. The “Alexander” refers to SGIG Thelbert L. Alexander 33º, past Deputy of the Orient of Wisconsin. This session was held, quite fittingly, in Nassau.

The first Prime Minister of the Bahamas, GIG Lynden O. Pindling 33º, was awarded the Gold Medal of Achievement at the 101st session held in Nassau in 1982. Our Lt. Grand Cmdr., SGIG Basil L. Sands 33º was a Gold Medal of Achievement awardee at the 109th session in 1990 held in Denver.

SGIG James E. Morley 33º was installed as the first Commander-

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Thanks to **Deputy of the Orient, SGIG Roscoe A.L. Davies 33º, James E. Morley #73, Valley of Nassau (New Providence), Orient of the Bahamas** for his assistance.

**Whitney M. (Moore) Young Consistory #88**

**Valley of Erie - Orient of Pennsylvania**

Whitney M. Young Jr. (1921–1971), a member of Rescue Lodge #4, Omaha, Nebraska, of the MWHGL of Nebraska, was a well-known civil rights activist (part of the Big Six—four of whom are Prince Hall Masons) who became the Executive Director of the National Urban League (NUL). He succeeded fellow Prince Hall Mason, Dr. Lester B. Granger. His desire for involvement with race relations developed during his service in the United States Army.

**Brother Young** was extremely integral in soliciting Black fraternal organizations of that time contribute financially to the NUL. He built relationships with and called upon the various leaders of these groups. Often times said leaders would tacitly promise a contribution toward the efforts of the NUL in return for Young speaking at their engagement. As a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., he spoke at a few national meetings for Youngspeaking at their engagement. As a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., he spoke at a few national conventions and subsequently gained more than moral support—he received financial contributions from individual members.

Young was honored with a stamp in the Black Heritage series in 1981. Along with many other notable Prince Hall Masons, such as **John H. Johnson** and **A. Phillip Randolph**.

Numerous schools and institutions across the country have been named in his honor (Atlanta, Cleveland, Chicago, Kentucky, et al.) The Boy Scouts of America have an award named after him. It is the “Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award.”

A unique individual, he served as an advisor to President Kennedy, President Johnson, and President Nixon all while declining political office himself. So well regarded by all, especially President Johnson, he was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1969. As a fitting ending to a life well lived, President Johnson delivered the eulogy at his funeral.

**Brother Young’s** childhood home in Simpsonville, Kentucky has been designated a National Historic Landmark.

**Ben Lomond Consistory #94**

**Valley of Salt Lake City**

**Orient of Colorado, Wyoming, & Utah**

**Chartered June 6, 1976**

This Consistory is curiously named and is the third in the triumvirate of mountain-themed names for the Orient of Colorado, Wyoming, & Utah. Many might think that it was named for some prominent citizen or an exemplary Mason. Not so. Ben Lomond Peak is the prominent geological feature of Ogden, Utah, which is about 45 minutes north of Salt Lake City. The mountain was so named by the initial settlers because it reminded them of the original Ben Lomond Mountain in the Highlands of Scotland. Ben Lomond means “beacon peak” in Gaelic.

Supposedly the mountain’s appearance, when viewed against the backdrop of the horizon, inspired the famous Paramount Pictures logo which is known as “Majestic Mountain.” The founder of Paramount Pictures was a resident of Ogden.

When organizing this Consistory, the Fraters bandied about many ideas for names, but ultimately settled on choosing “Ben Lomond” as it has long been associated with the Ogden/Salt Lake City area and has stood upright, weathered all storms, and stood the test of time much like free masonry.

There was a Labanus Consistory chartered in the city by our United Supreme Council in the 1920s. The infamous John G. Jones established a consistory in the city in 1896.

Thanks to **SGIG Lionell Cummings 33º, Deputy of the Orient of Colorado, Wyoming & Utah, Mountain and Plains #33, Valley of Denver** for his assistance.

The Orient of Indiana held its Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony Saturday, May 16, 2015 at the Crown Hill Cemetery honoring the late Past Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. Summer A. Furnis 33º, the late Past Sovereign Grand Commander (Emeritus), Ill. Algie S. Oldham, Jr. 33º, and the late Past Deputy for the Orient of Indiana, Ill. Grady B. Hinkle 33º. Following the ceremony, the Fraters convened at Prince Hall Masonic Lodge for its Annual Scottish Rite Workshop. The theme for the workshop was, “What were you suppose to learn in your Degrees of Scottish Rite Masonry”. Emphasis was also put on the continual decline of Scottish Rite membership, SGIG Robert E. Thomas presided.

Magic City Consistory held its annual Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony on March 16, 2015. The event was well attended and the Fraters did an excellent job at giving an overview of the ceremony and explaining the Mystic Banquet.

On May 17, 2015, Magic City also held its Whit Sunday Service, where Sublime Prince Dennis Whittington was the Speaker. His topic was, “Why Whit Sunday”. After the service we shared dinner with the Ladies of Magic City Assembly. Everyone seemed to have had a joyous time.

We assembled in the city of Columbus, the Valley of Malta Consistory #34 on September 26, 2015 for our 102nd Annual Session of Indiana Council of Deliberation (ICOD). Distinguished visitors were received and welcomed, and the Council was honored to have in attendance the Most Worshipful Grand Master Clyde E. Bailey, Jurisdiction of Indiana. P.H.A. Illustrious Sirs were informed of their responsibilities to the United Supreme Council. Overseers were instructed to put emphasis on this matter in their
Commanders of the Rite meetings. Illustrious James Terry expressed to those in attendance that Scottish Rite Masonry is a military organization; however, all Scottish Rite Masons are responsible to the Sovereign Grand Commander. He delegates his Deputy of each Orient with the same power he has. He also noted that Scottish Rite Masonry starts in the Blue House and not in the Consistory. Deputy Robert E. Thomas was recognized for his dedicated service to the ICOD. He was awarded an Eagle Status.

During the Commanders of the Rites meeting, President of the Rites Ill. Edward Harrison in his comments emphasized that the peers need to address ways to reclaim and grow the Scottish Rite membership. Among the many suggestions, emphasis was placed on the need to get Sublime Princes involved in Scottish Rite activities and put them to work in an effort to assist in reclaiming inactive members.

The Indiana Grand Assembly, under the leadership of Grand Loyal Lady Ruler, Phyllis A. Tyler, and the Ladies of the Golden Circle held their Annual Banquet on Saturday evening. The theme was, “Fruits of the Spirits”.

At the 134th Session of the United Supreme Council held in Chicago, Illinois, Sublime Prince William Robinson was elevated to the grade of Grand Inspector General.

The C. Stircle Patterson Scholarship Committee presented the names of those considered for scholarship awards. Magic City Consistory #62 donated $100.00 to the Scholarship Fund.

In the fall of 2015, Constantine Consistory #25 and Magic City Consistory #62 held their annual Commanders-in-Chief Banquet honoring Commander-in-Chief Michael Westbrook and Commander-in-Chief Michael Angeletti.

The speaker for Magic City’s Commander-in-Chief Banquet was Gary, Indiana NAACP President, Steve Mays. The topic of his speech was, “How Can We Do Different Things in Our Community”. He markedly pointed out that Prince Hall Masons and the Gary Branch NAACP should work closer together. Black organizations must partner with each other, reach out, and train our people to replace us. If we have no capital we cannot operate.

Malta Consistory #34 reported that they brought in ten new members last year. Constantine Consistory #25, Michael Westbrook was named Commander-in-Chief of the Year and in their Lodge of Perfection, Walter Lee was named Thrice Potent Master of the year. Most Consistories in the Orient are doing well and have vowed to help those that are struggling.

The Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief (MICIC), SGI G Webb 33º, #18 then received the Grand Inspectors General who were given the proper honors of their grade and then escorted to their seats within the Chambers.

The MICIC then received the Assistant to the Deputy, SGI G Darryl White 33º, #107 with the proper honors of his grade. Next, the MICIC received SGI G Doysa Whitaker 33º, Active from the Orient of Nebraska, with the proper honors of his grade. Finally, the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons, Kansas Jurisdiction, the Honorable Ill. Larry S. Coleman, Jr. 33º, #19 was received into the Consistorial Chamber, rendered the proper honors of his office and escorted, by the MICIC, to his seat in the East.

After the roll call of Consistories, Council officers and Grand Inspectors General, the MICIC then appointed the necessary committees. Next, Annual Proclamation announcing the convening of the 102nd Annual Session of the KCOD was read followed by the reading of a dispensation authorizing the host to open the meeting out of time and place.

The MICIC, SGI G Webb 33º, presented GIG D. J. Gilmore, Jr. 33º, #19 with a plaque in appreciation of his outstanding service to the Orient of Kansas, in general and the KCOD, in particular.

SGIG Webb then delivered his Annual Allocution which was received with the enthusiastic response from all present. Each Ill. Commander-in-Chief then reported on the status of his Consistory and its activities.

The MICIC accompanied by the MWGM of Kansas and SGI G Whitaker made his annual visit to the Kansas Grand Assembly.

After lunch, the appointed committees delivered their reports during the remainder of the day’s session.

A banquet was held on Saturday evening during which two scholarship grants were presented to area students on behalf of the United Supreme Council Benevolent Foundation. Followed by the presentation of a monetary donation to a youth group in the Kansas City, KS community. Also a donation of four (4) baskets of toiletries was presented to a representative of an organization who assists the homeless in the Kansas City, KS area.

During the session which reconvened on Sunday morning at 8:00 am, the remaining committees presented their reports, followed by the Annual Joint Kansas Council of Deliberation/Kansas Grand Assembly Necrology Service.

The annual election of KCOD was conducted with the following results; a new First Lieutenant Commander, GIG Alfred Pearson 33º, #19 and Grand Secretary, GIG Curtis Wooden 33º, #107 were elected and installed.

No nominations were received for elevation to Grand Inspector General.

The 102nd Annual Session of the Kansas Council of Deliberation was closed with all attendees uniting in the Fraternal Chain of Union, where prayer was offered by the Grand Prior, GIG, Rev. Edmond Pearson 33º, #18.
Michigan Council
S.G.I.G. Christopher Buck, 33º
Deputy for Michigan
&
S.G.I.G. Charles Ayler, 33º
Assistant to the Deputy

The Michigan Council of Deliberation (MCOD) Fall Session was held October 30 – November 1, 2015 at the H Hotel in Midland, Michigan. Attending was SGIG Melvin J. Bazemore, 33º, Grand Minister of State and the Direct Representative of the SGC Dr. Solomon Wallace, 33º. Elections were held and all were elected to retain their current positions. Grand Secretary/Assistant to the Deputy SGIG Charles Ayler; 1st Lt., GIG Frederick L. Gleton; 2nd Lt., GIG Michael H. Jordan; and Grand Treasurer SGIG Leroy Bostic; The 2016 MCOD will be held in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Scholarship awards winners were introduced with winners as followed:

1. Jalen Parks, Atherton High School 4.0 GPA and will attend Yale University as a Pre Med Major Jalen is the United Supreme Council award winner.
2. Michael Hawkins, Forest Hills Northern High School, 3.7 GPA and will attend Grand Valley State University as a Business Major.
3. Evan Morton, Detroit Edison PSA High School, 2.9 GPA and will attend Michigan and major in Sports Medicine. Evan is the May Art award winner.
4. Ken Daniels, Cass Tech High School, and 3.6 GPA and will attend the University of Michigan.

Press releases for all award recipients were placed in the papers of their area. The 2016 potential award winners are requested to be submitted by April 1, 2016.

The Fall Commanders of the Rite meeting was held at the MCOD fall reunion with GIG Lamont Cole making a report on past fund raising. Over $3,000 was raised from lapel pin sales since 2014. This has been a huge success with many other Orions asking details on how to proceed. President SGIG Robert Meekins of the Michigan Commanders of the Rite has done a superb job and was elected to continue in office. Eagles Club activity has been brisk around the Orient with many raffles for fund raising.

The 2015 MCOD Foundation Scholarship Golf Outing was a rain out in June. It was rescheduled for June 22, 2016 in the same location. It will be held at the Dearborn Michigan Country Club in Warren Michigan. All consistories were requested to have a team ready to participate.

Massachusetts Council
S.G.I.G. Henry L. Owens, 33º
Deputy for Massachusetts
&
S.G.I.G. Ian G. Wilson, 33º
Assistant to the Deputy

On November 7, 2015 the MA Council of Deliberation (MCOD) held its 107th Council of Deliberation at the Prince Hall Masonic Temple in the Valley of Boston, Massachusetts, MA, with SGIG Henry L. Owens presiding as Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief (MICIC).

We were honored by our Sovereign Grand Commander, the Honorable Dr. Solomon Wallace, 33º who sent fraternal greetings from his Illustrious Office.

Orient News

During this 107th MCOD we were pleased with the presence of Most Worshipful Brother Reuben Meade, 33º. Most Worshipful Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons, Deputy Grand Master, Yves Maingnan 33º, RWGSW Jeffrey Colston 32º, RWGJW Timothy Downes 33º and RW Grand Secretary Gerald Thaxton 33º, Jurisdiction of Massachusetts.

In addition to the Deputy for Massachusetts, Active Members of the United Supreme Council, NJ, PHA in attendance at this Council were SGIG Edward Cherry 33º, Deputy for Connecticut accompanied by SGIG Charles Paris 33º and SGIG Harold Grey 33º, SGIG Conrad Luster 33º, Overseer for Rhode Island, SGIG Nicholas B. Locker 33º, SGIG Daniel Brightwell 33º, SGIG Robert Parks 33º and SGIG Ian Wilson 33º, Orient for Massachusetts.

Ill. Donald Moran 33º, Deputy for MA, for the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite NMJ, expressed regrets as he was unable to attend the Council due to prior commitments. He was represented and received with honors by SGIG Robert Carl Schremser 33º, Active for Massachusetts.

Sublume Princes Jeffrey Coaston #17, Charles McKinney #17, Legrant Blackwell #17 and Richard Scroggins #89 were nominated to be recommended to the Supreme Council for consideration to become candidates for the thirty third degree Class of 2017.

Loyal Lady Ruler Callie Walters, Prince Hall Assembly #2 along with the officers, Past Loyal Lady Rulers and members of the Assembly were received into the Council prior to the Deputy’s Allocution.

The Mentoring Committee for the Orient of Massachusetts under the leadership of GIG Justin Petty, 33º, PCIC and the Director of Public and Community Relations for the Orient and SGIG Ian Wilson, 33º, PCIC and Assistant to the Office of Deputy implemented the vision of Sovereign Grand Commander with the activation of the mentoring program “From Cradle to College” at the Jeremiah E. Burke High School in Boston, MA. Ill. Wilson in addition Ill. Petty teaches and conducts a Steel Band had the honor of performing at the Martin Luther King Memorial Breakfast. The Orient of MA is extremely proud of him and all that he does for the youth of Boston.

Ill. Horace Jackson 33º, Director of the Mentoring Program for the United Supreme Council has been updated and will be kept informed.

The recipient of the annual United Supreme Council Scholarship was Mr. Nathaniel D. Brewer, a Senior Business Major at Bentley University in Waltham, Massachusetts. The recipient of the annual Louis I. Amis / Phillip D. Oliver Scholarship presented by Holy Sepulchre Consistory #17 was Mr. Joshua Brewster, a Senior Criminal Justice Major at Dean College in Franklin, Massachusetts.
“As we continue to push forward in our efforts to promote and advance the vision and goals of our United Supreme Council, it is gratifying to us that the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry continue to thrive and grow in the Orient of Massachusetts. We look to the future with optimism, hard work and prayer.

It is our hope that we will always be able to continue our work adhering to the words of the great Maya Angelou who once said “When you learn teach, when you get give”, concludes SGIG Henry L. Owens, Deputy.

The Minnesota Council of Deliberations (MCOD) was held at the Prince Hall Masonic Temple on October 24, 2015 in Minneapolis, Minnesota starting with a fabulous continental breakfast prepared by Commander-in-Chief (CIC), Japhus Dent, 33º.

The Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief (MCIC), John W. Hardeman, III 33º, presided over the Council and verified a quorum to officially open the MCOD. The Deputy of the Orient SGIG John W. Hardeman III presented his Allocution to a very attentive group of Fraters that traveled near and far. Deputy Hardeman provided special recognition to his assistant, Ill. Virgil R. Brown, Sr. and CIC of North Star Consistory Japhus Dent for diligently leading the Consistories growth plan and increased Masonic and community visibility. Also noted were Ill. Edward Thornton, SP Ronnell Shaw and SP Marc Young for their leadership of the Take a Kid Fishing program, as well as the Back to School Educational Supply Drive and Summer Camp Scholarship Initiative.

The annual celebratory dinner hosted by the MCOD was held at the Kelly Inn, located in St. Paul, Minnesota. During the celebration, the council recognized Ill. Dana A. Bailey 33º on his elevation to the honorary degree with the SGIG Dwight R. Johnson Class of 2015, at which time Ill. Fred Doughty 33º, presented him with the coveted King Solomon Sword. Also during the celebration, the MCOD recognized Ill. Otis Spencer 33º pictured right as the 2015 recipient of the Gentleman of Distinction Award for his countless contributions to Prince Hall Scottish Rite Masonry. Although his health did not permit him to attend that did not stop all in attendance from standing to their feet as the room erupted with thunderous applause. It is with an extremely heavy heart, I must inform you that on January 16, 2016 at the blessed age of 99, Ill. Spencer laid down his working tools and reported to that celestial lodge not made by hands.

During this past year, under the leadership of Commander-in-Chief Japhus Dent 33º, our Sublime Princes and Illustrious Sirs exceeded the challenges that where placed before them during the MCOD. They donated over 50 fully supplied backpacks for boys and girls ranging from kindergarten to 12th grade (senior year of high school) who’s family needed a helping hand preparing them for the upcoming school year, keeping with their theme “From the Cradle to College”. They did not stop there; they also donated backpacks to the African American Boy Scouts known as Zulu Troop.

The Fraters of North Star #14 also had a strong record breaking amount of participants in the annual Take a Kid Fishing program, where lines were cast, laughter was heard, smiles
were all around and hot dogs and chips were eaten, bringing joy and mentorship to the future of Prince Hall Scottish Rite Masonry.

The members of North Star Consistory #14 also participated in the Feed My Starving Children program which packages and distributes food to an overwhelming number of children in various countries who would otherwise have no food to eat. The members of North Star Consistory #14 did such a phenomenal job, that they have accepted the call for three (3) more back to back FMSC events.

And last but certainly not least, North Star Consistory #14 in conjunction with The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Minnesota came together as one to provide a wonderful and widely successful Winter Conference on January 30, 2016, where Healthy Mason’s, Healthy Lodges and Healthy Future was the overall theme. Members of the Jurisdiction as well as the community were invited to come out and receive free health screenings which included blood pressure and cholesterol checks, blood sugar testing, BMI (Body Mass Index) testing, as well as HIV/STD screening (Done privately, all information concerning this screening was held in a confidential environment).

Our new home, The Hotel ML of Mount Laurel, New Jersey is ever developing in a positive manner for the New Jersey Council of Deliberation (NJCOD) and our November 2015 session is proof of that! The Council was hosted by DeHugo Consistory #2 sitting in the Valley of Camden, New Jersey.

In accordance with Constitutional provisions, annual elections were held for both the NJCOD and the State Grand Assembly (NJSGA). All officers of the NJCOD succeed themselves. Loyal Lady Flora Williams ended her service/helm as State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler as a “Lady”. We now welcome our newly elected State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler, Loyal Lady Gloria Ellzy and we Pray God’s Blessings upon her and the NJSGA for enhancement and growth.

It is stated that a Family that Prays together stays together and in addition to that a Family that breaks bread together whether it be the word of God and/or a meal will grow together. Once again we have been blessed to have the Prince Hall Family of New Jersey to visit with us at our annual session and then to break bread with us in both manners. To God be the Glory and my heartfelt thanks for each of them sharing the day with us.

The highlight of our Saturday evening banquet is that of the presentation of Scholarship awards to eight (8) outstanding students from around the Orient of New Jersey. Two (2) of these awards are very special because the United Supreme Council under the leadership of our Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Solomon Wallace awards a $1,000.00 scholarship which was presented by SGIG Dr. Ivory M. Buck, Jr. Also, the officers and members of the New Jersey Commanders of the Rite under the leadership of SGIG James G. Allen, officers and members support our annual program with the Herbert M. Douglas award which is also in the amount of $1,000.00. We remain so grateful for the gifts that assist our deserving students to advance their desire for a higher education.

A number of our Consistories and Assemblies have joint forces for their annual affairs and community projects. It gives me great pleasure to state that the following is still in full effect for their enhancement listed below:

The annual community program of Douglass Consistory #10 located in the Valley of Plainfield New Jersey annual Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless and Christmas gifts that were given to the residences of Aristacare Norwood Terrace, Plainfield New Jersey. The annual Joint Scholarship Banquet was again this year and was wonderfully supported.

Ophir Consistory #48 and Lady Orchid Assembly #44 are now going in their fourth (4th) year of doing a joint affair honoring their leadership for the current year as well as pioneers of the community that service the Valley of Trenton. In addition, they donated 150 books to the “Veterans Haven South”, groceries for the Mercer Crisis Ministry and 195 pairs of children’s gloves to Trenton and surrounding Township School Districts, name a few of the many service programs.

To God be the Glory...For the Favor he has continued to show our Council. Four (4) of our Grand Inspectors General were reclassified to the Sovereign Grand Inspectors General “Emeriti” namely; Isaiah Cherry, Ill. Grand Engineer & Architect, Walter D. Staton, Jr., Ill. Assistant Master of Ceremonies, Charles F. Williams, Ill. Convention Coordinator, Garrett L. Winn, Ill. Committee Chair Allocution/Nomination. To which all have served our Council well over the years and I know that this will continued.

The 2015 host for Whit Sunday was Sardonias Consistory #41 located in the Valley of Newark New Jersey. We worshiped and fellowshipped with The First Hopewell Baptist Church Newark, New Jersey where the Pastor is Rev. Sublime Prince Antonio Porter.

In addition to our annual celebration of Whit Sunday, I am pleased to announce that the New Jersey Commanders of the Rite under the service and leadership of SGIG James G. Allen, President and members held its annual Fellowship/Church worship with my Church, Bethel AME Church Beverly New Jersey where the Rev. Margret Bailey is the Pastor. My heart was made to feel GLAD that my house of Worship was packed with III. Peers and their families.

We conducted our annual affair February 2016. This year the Orient honored and showed it’s appreciation for Officers of the NJCOD in the persons of; SGIG Robert L. Oglesby, Sr., Assist to the Deputy for the Orient, SGIG William J. Ewing, Esq., Legal Advisor, SGIG Harvey D. Saunders, Masters of Ceremonies, and SGIG Gary Sylvester, Assistant Convention Coordinator. We thank God for these pillars of support and strength keeps the foundation goals of our Orient intact!

Tribute given to each honoree is a tradition of this program and council to be given by a family member and/or a close friend and this year it was no different. They were done for; SGIG Sylvester by his wife L.L. Florence Sylvester, for SGIG
Saunders by his wife Barbara Saunders, for SGIG Oglesby, by his wife Angela Oglesby, and for SGIG Ewing, by SP Judge Kenneth Strait, Jr.

The event was once again held at the Valley of Central Jersey Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Building in Bordentown, NJ. We are once again to be blessed to have the room filled to capacity with Friends and Family of all of the honorees. We had representation from each of the Valleys of the several Orient coming from both the Consistories and Assemblies. In addition, the Prince Hall Family led by the Lodges and Chapters has continued to support our annual affair.

We were pleased to have SGIG Melvin J. Bazemore, Grand Minister of State, SGIG Roland K. Lee, Treasurer General of the Holy Empire, SGIG Dr. Ivory M. Buck, Jr., who also served as Master of Ceremonies for this affair, and SGIG Raynard W. Hughes, Cathedral Secretary.

Once again, SGIG Edward M. Brooks, II who is our Editor of the Bulletin and always makes time to support the Orient of New Jersey and we remain most grateful for his support and presence within our Orient.

The Most Worshipful Shelton J. Prescott, Grand Master for the State and Jurisdiction of New Jersey along with other elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers.

Remarks of gratitude and thanks were given by each of the honoree after receiving gifts of Love from family and friends.

Greetings were extended by our SGIG Melvin J. Bazemore, Grand Minister of State on behalf of our Sovereign Grand Commander, Dr. Solomon Wallace.

Greetings and closing remarks were given by Most Worshipful Shelton J. Prescott followed by Benediction.

In closing, words cannot express all of my feelings to be able to be a servant-leader to this Orient and so very grateful for the fellowship that is given unto my office to God I Praise, Honor and Serve and remain Glad in my Heart for that!

Remember always, there is not an “I” in the word TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves Much)! This body of ours (NJCOD) has many working/moving parts………thanks be to God as each year passes we are moving each of those parts in the same direction and for that WE remain most grateful as a TEAM….We Still Have So Much To Continue To Thank GOD for!!!

\textbf{New York Council}

S.G.I.G. Grady Edge, 33º
\textbf{Deputy for New York}

&

S.G.I.G. Hermon J. Simpson, 33º
\textbf{Assistant to the Deputy}

On May 24, 2015 a bust of SGC Dr. Solomon 33º, was unveiled after the morning service at the 134th United Supreme Council held in Chicago, IL. The Orient of New York was very supportive in raising funds for this project. Thank you New York.

\textbf{Council of Deliberation}: The 90th Council of Deliberation (NYCOD) was held at the Holiday Inn, 205 Wolf Road, Albany, New York on October 16-18, 2015. The meeting of the Commanders of the Rite was held on Friday night, October 16, 2015, with SGIG Hermon J. Simpson 33º, Assistant to the Deputy, presiding.

The 90th NYCOD was opened by Albany Consistory #90 by CIC John Chaires, 32º. The Session was opened promptly at 8:00 am, on October 17, 2015 to receive the Most Illustrious Commander in Chief (MICIC), SGIG Grady Edge 33º, who then received all elected and appointed Officers of the NYCOD, followed by the reception of the Grand Inspectors General of the thirty third (33º) Degree. Immediately thereafter the MICIC received the Active membership of the Orient followed by the reception of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the State of New York, the Honorable Dorian R. Glover, 33º. This was followed by the reception of the Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council, SGC Dr. Solomon Wallace, 33º. All reports were submitted prior to the Session therefore they were given in a timely manner. The Banquet on Saturday evening included the presentation of six (6) scholarships from the NYCOD and a one thousand ($1,000.00) dollar scholarship from the USC. The Sunday morning Session was opened with a superlative sermonette by Rev. SGIG G. Michael Tydus 33º, with the ladies of the Golden Circle present.

\textbf{Scholarship}: The Orient of New York continues to advocate educational scholarships for our youth and will continue to emphasize and set higher expectations from them in their educational pursuits.

\textbf{Charity}: Donations were made to the following individuals and organizations from the Consistories of the NYCOD: the Leland Fund, Camp Eureka, Christmas baskets, and Stipends to the widows of the various Consistories.

\textbf{Health}: Though Health Education is not a mandate of this Orient; each Consistory has been encouraged to adopt some form of health education. Since we are an organization of predominately black men and have statistically showed that we have the greatest mortality rate, each Consistory has adopted some form of health education, concerning those illnesses that affect black men. The education comes in the form of seminars, presentations by medical experts, and discussions in Consistory meetings. I am very pleased with our health programs and recommend that they continue.

\textbf{Golden Circle}: The Golden Circle Session was held simultaneously at the same hotel and was presided over by SGLLR Dorothy Williams of Long Island Assembly #20. MICIC Grady Edge closed the Session at 11:00 am on Sunday morning, October 18, 2015.
The 106th Annual Ohio Council of Deliberation (OCOD) Session was held October 24-25, 2015 at the Holiday Inn French Quarters, Perrysburg, Ohio.

On Friday St. Matthews Consistory #24 and La Paz Assembly #35 hosted an outstanding “welcome hospitality” for all early arrivals.

The Session began on Saturday with devotion led by Ill. Grand Prior, SGIG, Rev. Dr. Wilton E. Blake I; GIGs Lawrence Coleman, Rev. Brian T. Moragne, Elder Carlton Cave, Rev. Dr. Charles Holmes and Rev. C. Robert Lewis.

The Annual Session was officially opened by the Illustrious Commander-in-Chief, SP Donald C. Scott and the Officers of St. Matthews Consistory #24. SGIG Sidney D. Broadnax, Jr., Most Illustrious Commander in Chief (MICIC) was received into the Chamber room to preside over the Conference.

OCOD Elected Officers present were: GIG Aaron R. Ray #15-1st Lt. Cmdr., GIG Ezell U. Sampson #26-2nd Lt. Cmdr., SGIG Gerald S.Friason #20-Grand Secretary; GIG Arlin Jackson #26-Grand Treasurer; SGIG Theodore Patton #24-Grand Master of State/Grand Orator; SGIG Rev. Dr. Wilton E. Blake I-Grand Prior; GIG Odell Robinson, Jr. #20-Grand Captain of the Guard; GIG Thomas Graham #26-Director of Sword/Candle Bearers and his Assistant, GIG Ernest Farrier #20; SGIG Woodrow Riddle #15-Grand Hospitaler; GIG George King #26-Grand Engineer & Architect; GIG Dr. D. Howard Melvin #20-Grand Sentinel; SGIG Jerry D. Springer #26-Grand Master of Ceremonies and his Assistant, GIG Eldred Jones #26; Assistant Grand Secretaries: SGIG Ronald A. Ogletree #26, GIG Jimmie E. Johnson #26, SGIG Charles G. Smith #21; Assistant to the Deputy-SGIG Stephen P. Blackwell, Sr. #26 and SGIG Charles W. Hales #15; and SGIG Dr. Chester C. Pryor II, Past Deputy of the Orient.

Illustrious Commanders-in-Chief present were: SGIG William W. Spence - Bezalez Consistory #15; SP Irving L. Straum, Jr. - King Solomon Consistory #20; GIG Traylor G. Smith - L.D. Easton Consistory #21; SP Donald C. Scott - St. Matthews Consistory #24; and GIG Weston Philpot, 1st Lt. Commander - Miami Consistory #26.


Sovereign Grand Inspectors General -Actives (A) and Emeritus (E) in attendance were: Dr. Chester C. Pryor, II #20 (A) – Medical Director, United Supreme Council (USC); Charles W. Hales, #15 (A) – Convention Director – USC; Rev. Dr. Wilton E. Blake, I, #20 (A) – Grand Prior, USC; Carl A. Williams, #15 (E) – Asst., Convention Director, USC; Kenneth E. Lewis, #21 (E) – Grand Standard Bearer, USC; Steven Reece, Sr. #20 (E); Ronald A. Ogletree, #26 (E); Homer Buchanan, #26 (E); Jerry D. Springer, #26 (E) – Grand Master of Ceremonies, USC; Dr. Roland C. McGoodwin (E) – Medical Depart USC; Leo C. Beavers, #15 (E); Ival Angel, #15 (E); Theodore Patton, #24 (E); Clamon M. Marshall, #20 (E); Charles V. Williams, III (E); Charles G. Smith (E); William E. Spence (E), Reginald Blake (E); Robert L. Jones (E); Embie R. Bostic (E); Gerald S. Friason (E); and Arper Tentman, Jr. (E).

Visitors present were - SGIG Christopher Buck, III. Deputy of the Orient of Michigan and SGIG Charles Ayler, Assistant to the Deputy. Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Honorable Carl A. Williams was escorted into the Consistorial Chamber by the Grand Lodge Trustees, MWPGM’s, and PGM’s. Also present were most of the Past Grand Worthy Patrons.

The Allocation of MICIC SGIG Sidney D. Broadnax, Jr., highlighted the following: State of the Nation: the upcoming Presidential elections and staying focused on the issues. State of the Order: The “Bust Statue” of SGC Dr. Solomon Wallace was unveiled during the 134th Annual Session of the United Supreme Council that was held May 22-26, 2015 in Chicago, IL, and he was honored to serve as Chairman for this project. State of the Orient of Ohio: Thanks to the combined efforts of our OCOD, Consistories, Ohio Commanders of the Rite, the Ohio Grand Assembly, and the Assemblies we donated $7,379 to Charity; $6,098 for Benevolence; and $26,454 for Scholarships – Totaling - $39,931. Mr. Orlando Hopson, a four year student in our “Mentorship” program in Cleveland was awarded $1,000 from the “Educational Grant” of the USC.

The oldest and youngest member present was - SGIG Charles W. Hales, #15 – Oldest at 93 and SP Rodney Blount, #21 – Youngest at 29.

On Sunday morning – A hearty Buffet Breakfast was provided for all registered attendees. The walls between the meeting rooms were opened for the 3rd Annual Joint Devotions and Memorial Service. Devotion was conducted by Ill. Grand Prior, SGIG Wilton E. Blake, I #20 and PLLR Rev. Mabel Lewis #34.

LL Maggie J. Parks #22, Secretary of the Ohio Grand Assembly read the roll of deceased Loyal Ladies, and the roll of the deceased Fraters were read by Ill. Grand Secretary SGIG Gerald S. Friason.

After reading of the roll of our deceased, the following presentations were given: Medical Team – SGIG Dr. Chester C. Pryor, II; GIGs Dr. Keith Melvin; Dr. Richard Gordon; and Dr. D. Howard Melvin; and they spoke on “Eye Examinations” by an Ophthalmologist; Mammograms Breast Examinations (for males and females); and Proper Diets (Diabetes). The Ohio Commanders of the Rite donated $500.00 to “Young Men of Excellence” of Toledo, Ohio; and a presentation on the
The Ohio Grand Assembly 44th Annual Session was opened on Saturday, October 24 and concluded on Sunday October 25, 2015. **Loyal Lady Ruler Delores Bates**, and members of **La Paz Assembly #35** (Toledo) was host for this year. **State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Joyce E. Aldridge, #35** did a great job presiding. All Loyal Lady Rulers: Juanita Woods, Bezaleel #19 (Cleveland); LL Dorothy M. Dunford, Miami #22 (Dayton); LL Shirley Coaston, Dove #34 (Cincinnati); LL Delores M. Bates, La Paz #35 (Toledo); and LL Barbara J. Guyan, Capital Valley #36 (Columbus) were present. The winner of the Annual “E. Rose Ferguson Queen’s Contest” was LL Jean Newby of Miami Assembly #22. Four (4) scholarships were award to deserving students.

**The Golden Circle Assemblies** are actively involved in community projects, especially focusing on Nursing Home visits and donation of Coats and School Supplies. Posters are submitted by each Assembly and judged on their community involvement and activities. This year the “Publicity / Public Relations Posters” contest committee, chaired by LL Marcia Broadnax selected: **First place** - Miami #22, (Dayton); **Tied for second place** were Dove #34 (Cincinnati) and LaPaz #35 (Toledo).

On Saturday evening, a “Recognition Banquet” chaired by Loyal Lady Gloria J. Tisdale honored the State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Joyce E. Aldridge, #35. It was enjoyed by all. The newly elected State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler is **LL Ruth Keels** of Capital Valley #35.

The 134th Annual Communication of the Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation (PACOD) was convened on Saturday, November 14, 2015, at the Crown Plaza Hotel, King of Prussia, PA. This Convocation was opened at 12:30 pm, by Ill. Commander in Chief (CIC), SP James Willoughby of DeMolay Consistory #1, who was the host Consistory along with LL Ruler Mary E. Grice, Philadelphia Assembly #5 Order of the Golden Circle.

As customary in this Jurisdiction on Friday evening prior to the opening of our Convocation, the Officers, Delegates, visitors and invited guests were entertained by the hosts, DeMolay Consistory #1, under the leadership of SP James Willoughby, 32°, CIC and Philadelphia Assembly #5, under the leadership of LL Mary E. Grice, Loyal Lady Ruler. Special mention must be given to the host Committee Chairpersons and their committees for their efforts in presenting a first class hosted weekend.

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**Pictured right; The Honorable Carl A. Williams, MWGM brought remarks as the 62nd Most Worshipful Grand Master of the MWPHGL of OH with his Theme “Moving forward as a New Day has Dawned”: He thanked the Craft for their participation in the Statewide Prince Hall Day and stated it was a huge success and a great day for Masonry. Be aware of the violence in our communities. As men and Masons we have to provide quietness in our neighborhoods. He acknowledged that The 2016 Session of the OCOD will be held October 22-23 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel - 6500 Doubletree Avenue - Columbus, Ohio. All OCOD Officers were re-elected for the year 2016.**
In addition to the usual wine and cheese reception we were entertained with the State Grand Assemblies Queen’s contest which was won by LL Paulette Agnew, Mary E. Gould Assembly #61. This event was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance.

On Saturday morning, the Annual Breakfast sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Grand Assembly honored Past State Grand LL Ruler Mildred E. Brooks, Chester Assembly #30 for her many years of dedicated service to the Order of the Golden Circle. Due to illness, LL Brooks was unable to be in attendance, however she was there in spirit. After the completion of a very successful breakfast the Pennsylvania State Grand Assembly (PASGA) presented a fabulous “Ladies Hat Fashion Parade”, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

The 134th Annual convocation of the PACOD was convened on Saturday Afternoon, at 12:30 PM at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Independence Room, by Ill. CIC SP James Willoughby of DeMolay Consistory #1. The usual agenda of receiving dignitaries by CIC Willoughby was handled flawlessly and turned over to the 1st Lieutenant Commander, GIG Sean R. Snead, 33º, for the continuation of the agenda.

Upon being received in the customary manner, I, as Most Illustrious Commander In Chief (MICIC) continued the reception of dignitaries, concluding with the representative of the Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Solomon Wallace, SGIG Lorenzo Cruger, 33º, Secretary General, H.E., and the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons for the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Joseph B. Jefferson and his Corp of Officers. All dignitaries received, were given required honors and seated appropriately within the chambers.

The conclusion of the business agenda and the Heads of Houses of the Prince Hall Family were received recognized and seated. At 1:30 pm, The Officers and members of the PASGA, Order of the Golden Circle were received with due recognition given to the Queen, LL Paulette Askew, #61. After remarks from the SGLLR Mary Catherine Brinkley, #5, the Allocution was delivered for all to hear to satisfy the directive of the SGC Dr. Solomon Wallace of being more inclusive with the Loyal Ladies. At the completion of the Allocution the session was concluded to prepare for the Awards Banquet.

The Awards Banquet began at 7:00 pm, with the reception of the head table guests.

The 2015, PACOD Deputy’s Award was presented to GIG William Dill, 33º, for his sincere dedication to Prince Hall Masonry, his Church and to his Community, which was displayed by him receiving the “Mike Water’s Citizen of the Year Award” from Chambersburg, PA.

DeMolay Consistory #1 received the Consistory of the Year Award and CIC James T. Willoughby #1 received the Commander -in- Chief of the Year Award. Congratulations to DeMolay and CIC Willoughby for their contributions this year.

Financial Assistance Awards totaling $19,500, from the PA Youth Association Inc. NFP, partnering with the Negro Educational Emergency Drive (NEED), was granted to the following fifteen (15) students: Tytianna Broadwater, Alexus Brown, Camari Fitzgerald, Reginald Harris, Deshawn Ivey, Emani Majors, Jaelyn Mallard, Tyler Mikita, Iyalua Pope, Rahsaam Ray, Sieani Rhone, Myrakie Stokes, Tareesha Watkins, Zackary Wheeler and Emotti Ziegler.

We are pleased to announce that four (4) of the above students were awardees from the PASGA Hazel Datcher’s awards program. This year’s Awards Banquet had the most attendees than we’ve had for a number of years.

The agenda was renewed on Sunday morning with a Prayer Breakfast sponsored by the PA Commanders of the Rite under the direction of President, Pro-Tem, GIG Steven Wells, 33º. Sublime Prince, Rev. Terry Oakman #86 delivered a rousing message to set the tone for the day. President GIG Nelson Polite, due to illness was unable to continue his duties as President, GIG Steven Wells was appointed President, Pro-Tem until the meeting, where he was elected President. GIG Nelson Polite, 33º was awarded the title of President Emeritus and is at home resting comfortably.

On Sunday, November 9, 2015, the session reconvened. The following Sublime Princes were confirmed as candidates to receive the Honorary 33º and last degree, to
On Saturday morning the Annual Breakfast began with called by State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Mary Catherine commenced with the convening of the executive meeting entourage were received at 10:30 am. A joint necrology to continue their agenda. The Illustrious Deputy and his guest, LL Carolyn Dees Williams.

Sublime Princes recommended and approved for the 33rd and last degree Class of 2017 in Detroit, MI., are:

DeMolay #1, Wayne Williams, Earl Berry, James Jefferson, and Anthony Grant, St Cyprian #4, Willie Comer and Gerald Woods, Nimrod #9, Jeffrey Barton, Charles E. Gordon #65, Colin Mitchell and Alfred S. Cary, Sr., Martin Luther King Jr., #86, Mark Burford, Albert Blair and Gerald Hunley, Sr., Whitney M. Young Jr., #88, Gregory Ranson.

Pennsylvania State Grand Assembly
Again, congratulations and thanks to the Loyal Ladies of Philadelphia Assembly #5 for their contribution to the success of the week end with their hosting efforts.

The business activities of the 45th Annual Session commenced with the convening of the executive meeting called by State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Mary Catherine Brinkley #5.

On Saturday morning the Annual Breakfast began with the invited guest in attendance, Most Worshipful Grand Master Joseph B. Jefferson and his wife, SGIG Lorenzo Cruger, representing the Sovereign Grand Commander, and his guest, S.G.I.G Paul Barry, Illustrious Deputy, Orient of Washington D.C., SGIG Thomas Sturgeon, III Deputy for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, SGIG George Nakonetschny, Active member, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction and SGIG George M. Calloway and his guest, LL Carolyn Dees Williams.

On Sunday morning the PASGA reconvened at 8:00 am to continue their agenda. The Illustrious Deputy and his entourage were received at 10:30 am. A joint necrology service was conducted, gifts were passed out and remarks were made. The culmination of the visit was the election of Officers for the next ensuing year, which resulted in the following:

State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler, Mary C. Brinkley, #5
State Grand Loyal Lady Associate Ruler, Phyllis Washington #61
State Grand Loyal Lady Priestess, Bernice Edmonds #50
State Grand Loyal Lady Guide, Elaine Gary, #30
State Grand Loyal Lady Treasurer, Lily B. Burgess #5
State Grand Loyal Lady Secretary, Delphenia Bullock #30
State Grand Loyal Lady Herald, Glynis Y. Barr #5
State Grand Loyal Lady Standard Bearer, Cynthia Guinyard #61
State Grand Loyal Lady Inner Guard, Rosemary Wheaton, #62
State Grand Loyal Lady Outer Guard, Anita L. Mobley, #50
State Grand Loyal Lady Assistant Secretary, Christine Garner, #30

The continuation of Golden Circle business was exhibited during the executive meeting convened by State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler, Mary C. Brinkley on February 6, 2016 at the Red Lion Hotel, Harrisburg, PA. A review of the past session’s activities and the agenda for the 2016 session was planned and discussed with much enthusiasm. The Illustrious Deputy was present at this meeting.

Thank you Loyal Ladies for your continued support, Peace and Unity

The 2016 session of this Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation and the Pennsylvania State Grand Assembly will be convened November 11 thru 13, 2016 at the Crown Plaza Hotel, King of Prussia, PA. The host sponsors will be Charles E. Gordon Consistory #65 and Chester Assembly #30.

The 2017 session of this Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation and the Pennsylvania State Grand Assembly will convene November 10 thru 12, 2017 at the Doubletree Hotel, Monroeville, PA. The host will be St. Cyprian Consistory #4 and Pittsburgh Assembly #6.

Wash./Ore. Council
S.G.I.G. Daniel L. Lunsford, 33º
Deputy for Washington/Oregon
&
S.G.I.G. Wendell O. Hutchings, 33º
Assistant to the Deputy


Dignitaries in attendance included The Honorable Gregory D. Wraggs, Sr., 33º, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Washington and Jurisdiction; The Honorable Michael L. Harper, Sr., 33º, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana; SGIGs Wendell O. Hutchins, 33º, Julian L. Harris, 33º, and Henry Sheegog, 33º. Other SGIGs in attendance included Edward D. Dobbins 33º; Robert D. Cassidy, 33º, MEGHP, HRAM; Carl Gardley, 33º; GTIM; Thomas L. Johnson, 33º, REGC; and Eric D. Barfield, 33º, The Imperial Illustrious Deputy for the Desert of Washington, (A.E.A.O.N.M.S.) and representing the Southern Jurisdiction was GIG Eric D. Barfield, 33º. The event was well attended with approximately (130) members representing the Orient of Washington/Oregon.

This annual meeting featured MICIC Lunsford’s Allocution, the Obituary Report along with Officers’ Reports, and reports from each of the Commander-in-Chiefs and the various standing committees.
MICIC Lunsford’s Allocation continued as in the past by commending President Barack H. Obama for his untiring service to our country while confronting tremendous challenges in this country and abroad. MICIC Lunsford also expressed his continuous concerns for the welfare of children as well as concerns about the continuous shootings affecting Blacks in this country, young and old. He concluded by stating that “Black Lives Do Matters, race matters, and all lives matter”.

MICIC Lunsford honored those of the Orient of Washington/Oregon who passed away during the year following the Sixty-Ninth Annual Council of Deliberation. These included GIG Alonzo D. Foote, Sr., 33º, #75, and Clarence Larry, 33º, #67. Also, Sublime Princes Alexander Conley 32º, #67 and Joseph Harrison, 32º, #75 were honored.

MICIC Lunsford expressed his appreciation and pleasure to serve this Orient. Membership continues to be a challenge and is currently between 235 and 240 members, but he believes the future is bright. There are some candidates waiting on petitions to be approved and most Consistories are financially sound. All in all, things are better than last year.

Regarding Fraternal Relations, MICIC Lunsford reported there is no un-readiness with any other Masonic or Fraternal Bodies. He recognized the Honorable Gregory D. Wraggs, Sr., 33º, MWGM, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington/Jurisdiction and the Honorable Michael E. Harper, Sr., 33º, MWGM, MWPHGL of Oregon, Idaho, and Montana and pledged his support to both Grand Lodges.

The evening’s Gala Banquet was highlighted with the scholarship presentations. Recipients included; Bryce Hackett who received United Supreme Council’s scholarship, Helena Garraway recipient of the Orient’s scholarship and Simone R. Smith who received the Caleb-Joshua Education and Humanitarian Project scholarship. MICIC Lunsford and the Education Committee believe these awards highlight the Orient’s continuous commitment to the higher education of our youth. The Gala Banquet completed a day of business, reflection, and fellowship.

The Annual Reception honoring the new GIGs for the Orient was the previous evening by the Orient of Washington and Oregon’s Commanders of the Rite. Noted attendees included The Illustrious Deputy Lunsford, 33º; SGIG Wendell L. Hutchins, 33º; SGIG Patrick L. Hughes, 33º, The Honorable Gregory D. Wraggs, Sr., 33º, MWGM of Washington and Jurisdiction; and The Honorable Michael L. Harper, Sr., 33º, MWGM of Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. Other guests included; Edward D. Dobbins 33º; SPs and GIGs along with GLLR Peggy McClary and Washington/Oregon State Grand Assembly Order of the Golden Circle members along with family and friends of the honorees.

Those new GIGs honored included illustrious honorees; Michael E. Harper, Sr., 33º, Steve A. Harrington, Sr., 33º; Latroleum C. Lawrence, 33º; Benny L. McCraney, Sr., 33º; and Darryl F. Silvers, 33º.

During this Annual COD, The Washington/Oregon State Grand Assembly Order of the Golden Circle also convened to conduct its Forty Third Annual Grand Assembly. Peggy A. McClary, SGLLR, presided. Elections were conducted by MICIC Daniel L. Lunsford. The following elected officers for the year are; SGLLR Peggy A. McClary; GLLAR, Mary Douglas; GLLP, Rose Enoch; GLLG, Martha Davis; GLLT, Bennie S. Wright; GLLS, Kim Meriwether; GLLH, Lorrain B. Harris; GLLLSB, Marie Hilliard; GLLIG, Ola Miller; and GLLLOG, Gail Lawrence.

The Washington and Oregon State Grand Assembly has continued its community service and have provided valuable support to local Consistories by attending Ladies Night Programs, Feast of Tishri and Ceremony of Renewal and Remembrance. Various Grand Assembly committees continue raising funds to support many charities. The Grand Special Projects Committee is very proactive providing community service to a local elementary school that falls below the poverty line. Children lacking basic items such as school supplies and proper school clothing receive assistance. Many helped are homeless living in automobiles with their parents or in hotels. Needed items are collected and distributed with support from Fraters and donated by local organizations totaling over $5,000.00.

Awards for 2015 were presented to the local assemblies by SGLLR Ruler Peggy A. McClary. The Assembly of the Year was awarded to Northwestern Assembly #45. The Humanitarian Award was presented to LL Martha Davis.

Wisconsin Council
S.G.I.G. William R. Stark, 33º
Deputy for Wisconsin
&
S.G.I.G. Marshall E. Tharpe, 33º
Assistant to the Deputy

The 66th Annual Council of Deliberation (WCOD) and 30th Session of the State Assembly Order of the Golden Circle was held October 23-25, 2015, at the Sheraton
Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel, Brookfield, Wisconsin. On Friday night, the Commanders of the Rite met with a full schedule on Scottish Rite Masonry. After an enthusiastic meeting, our wives, and lady friends were invited to dinner. Ionic Consistory #70 along with Madison-Beloit #84, opened the 66th Session and conferred the Thirty-second degree on four, Grand Inspector Inquisitor Commanders.

The Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief SGIG (MICIC) William R. Stark, 33º was received with full honors at 10:00 a.m. The Session was graced by the presence of SGIG Van Harvey and GIG William Jackson from the Orient of Colorado. The Most Worshipful Grand Master (MWGM) Minor King, II, 33º was received with honors at 10:30 a.m. Kudos to Ill. Grand Master of Ceremonies, Micah Tharpe, 33º, for his tenacious memory in introducing the SGIGs and GIGs, by name, name of their class and year of initiation. Illustrious Micah Tharpe, 33º, is the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master (MWGM) Minor King, II, 33º, of the United Supreme Council Benevolent Fund Education Grant went to Kenneth Jamal Odom, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Four Fraters of the A. D. Barbee, 33º, Fall Class were pinned and crowned by MICIC Stark and their family members. The banquet music was provided by the renowned recording artist, Mr. Karl Cole of Rockford, Illinois.

Lunch with the Deputy was well attended. After lunch, the State Assembly, Appended and Adoptive Bodies were invited for the MICIC William R. Stark’s Allocution. When the report on Necrology was read, Frater Jesse E. McNeal sang the Lord’s Pray A Cappella, with a very soul moving feeling. Frater McNeal was appointed to the WCOD as a Grand Chorister. Congratulations to Ill. Jonathon L. Overby on receiving his PhD. Ill. Overby has a very interesting and detailed radio musical program on the public radio heard all over the State of Wisconsin. He is the first member of the WCOD appointed as Grand Chorister. Kudos to you, Ill. Sir Overby, 33º.

At the eloquent Banquet Saturday night, many awards were given. The Alfred W. McClanahan Award, first Deputy for Wisconsin, was awarded to Elijah Handy, 33º, of Ionic Consistory #70; Dr. Vincent C. Bevenue Award, second Deputy for Wisconsin was awarded to Frater Alfred Floyd, 33º, of Madison-Beloit Consistory #84.

The United Supreme Council Benevolent Fund Education Grant went to Kenneth Jamal Odom, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Four Fraters of the A. D. Barbee, 33º, Fall Class were pinned and crowned by MICIC Stark and their family members. The banquet music was provided by the renowned recording artist, Mr. Karl Cole of Rockford, Illinois.

Breakfast with the Deputy Sunday morning was enjoyed by all. Immediately following, the second meeting of the Commanders of the Rite was held and the election followed. The 66th Session reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

At 10:00 a.m. MICIC Stark, MWGM the Honorable Minor King II, and SGIGs graced the Grand Assembly, of the lovely Ladies of the Golden Circle. Immediately after returning to the session, MICIC Stark assumed the gavel and continued to receive reports. Sublime Princes, nominated as candidates for Honorary Membership to the Thirty-Third and Last Degree in the Class of 2016 are Shawn James, Glen A. Mathews and Rev. E. B. Coleman.


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The originator and creator of the Commanders of the Rite was the late Sovereign Grand Commander John G. Lewis Jr. 33º, of the United Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction, PHA. He envisioned a group of Grand Inspectors General coming together and putting their vast knowledge of Scottish Rite Masonry to work for the good of Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and education of all 32nd Degree Masons.

Past Sovereign Grand Commander Lewis gave special instructions to the Illustrious Deputies of the Orient to organize a State body of Commanders of the Rite, as well as Concordant Chapters, wherever there was a Consistory.

An Honorary Thirty Third Degree Scottish Rite Mason has reached the pinnacle of the order. There are no other degrees above this one. The only grades above this are Active, and Emeritus Sovereign Grand Inspectors General.

The elevation to this Nobel honor however does not imply that you have reached the end of your labors and can now rest upon your laurels. On the contrary, as a Grand Inspector General (G.I.G.), the obligation to Scottish Rite Masonry increases significantly. The G.I.G. in now considered a Teacher, Advisor, Counselor, Historian, Ritualist and Protector of the Order. It is often said that Scottish Rite is the College of Freemasonry. If comparison is correct, then we may presume that the Grand Inspectors General are its Professors.
It is for this reason that candidates for elevation to this coveted degree must only be those Sublime Princes who have demonstrated a dedication to the Order and have acquired a keen knowledge of its innermost workings, anything less than that diminishes the purpose. The Mason who does not look beyond the forms and ceremonies of the institution fail and utterly fail to realize the importance of its teachings. Its sublime truths are indeed mysteries to him. No Frater can fail to become wiser and better if he will pause on his way through the degrees and deliberately study the allegories and symbols so profusely set before him in Scottish Rite Freemasonry. No matter in what direction he may turn, the lessons of truths are set before him on every side, and it only remains for him to study their deep and hidden meaning.

The Commanders of the Rite is composed of learned Grand Inspectors General of all grades. They exist to provide guidance and wise counsel to Consistories and the Council of Deliberation in your State.

The Commanders of the Rite must function to assist the Consistories in the application and implementation of the true meaning of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. Other functions are to help maintain a broad avenue of charitable programs (through suggestion and activities, if requested to do so by the Commander in Chief of your Consistory), and to produce workshops for Sublime Princes in order that they may better understand Scottish Rite Masonry. Another very important function is to offer their assistance to the Consistory in fund-raising projects and programs for the purpose of charity.

The Commanders of the Rite should provide a forum for the enlightenment and development of Illustrious Sirs, and Peers, through lectures, workshops and research assignments. The Rite should prepare its members for active roles in the development and guidance of all Scottish Rite Bodies; and promote programs and sponsor activities, which will enhance the image of Prince Hall Scottish Rite Masonry within the local communities and throughout the state.

The Commanders of the Rite must be active in their communities by volunteering to perform various civic services thereby demonstrating to the citizenry that Scottish Rite Masons are civic-minded men of honor and of good moral character. While there are certain prerogatives belonging to Grand Inspectors General, you must nonetheless, exercise them sparingly and with due consideration for your Commander in Chief. You should in spite of your high rank remain humble and amenable to the wishes of those elected to govern over the Consistorial bodies of the Order.

In addition to the many functions of the Commander of the Rite, there is also another major obligation! That obligation is to support their Consistories in any effort that may be needed (ritually or initiatory), and to encourage all the officers of the Consistory, Lodge of Perfection and Rose Croix to attend the Council of Deliberation each Year.

Within the Council of Deliberation, the Commanders of the Rite must be proficient in the reception of dignitaries, employing the proper methods of protocol prescribed by the United Supreme Council. The Commanders of the Rite is an elite corps of, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General and Grand Inspectors General, who have dedicated themselves to the Order unselfishly. But remember, once you arrive, your job has just begun. Many may say I am a 33rd degree Mason, but you must attain the humility necessary to gain the deeper meaning from the adepts. The 33rd degree is not a promotion, it is an honor, it is not a decoration, it is a call to widen your spirit and a call to serve. You in turn teach your lesser informed brethren.

“Strange is our situation here on earth, each of us comes for a short visit, not knowing why, yet sometimes seeming to define a purpose”.

“WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THEIR COMMUNITIES”

Submitted by S.P. Anthony D. Hale, 32° 2nd Lt. Cmdr., Ophir Consistory #48

The Members of Ophir Consistory #48 and the Loyal Ladies of Lady Orchid Assembly #44 sponsored an array of community based initiatives to disperse charity to the Veterans and Families of the Orient of New Jersey in 2015.

Under the steadfast leadership of GIG W. Spencer Person Jr. 33° Commander - in- Chief and Loyal Lady Ruler Joanne M. Cain, the two Organizations touched not only the elderly and shut in, but Veterans and the Youth of their Jurisdiction.

The year began in April with a 150 book donation of various reading subjects to “Veterans Haven South” a 100 bed transitional facility aiding Veterans with the changes of going from a Military to Civilian Lifestyle sponsored by the Veterans Administration.

In the month of May Providence Rehabilitation Center in Trenton N.J. was brightened by a visitation to the elderly and shut in of New Jersey’s Capital City.

In June, the work of assisting our Veterans continued by sponsoring the annual Bingo Tournament at the Veterans Memorial Home in Edison, N.J. Also in the month of June, 150 bundles of groceries were packaged for home delivery at the Mercer Crisis Ministry for distribution throughout Mercer County N.J. this worthwhile charity was also assisted in the month of September.

Although the year was coming to a close, the charitable work didn’t hit a lull, in the month of November 195 pairs of Children’s gloves were distributed amongst three Elementary Schools in the Trenton and Ewing School Districts, Parker Elementary and P.J. Hill Elementary Schools of Trenton N.J. received 65 pairs each for their underprivileged Children; and Village Charter School of Ewing N.J. received an allotment of 65 pairs of gloves for their Students.

As the Holiday Season came into view, Ophir Consistory #48 and Lady Orchid Assembly #44 kept the “True Spirit” of the Season, by providing Thanksgiving and Christmas Charitable donations to the Williams Family of Willingboro N.J. and their 5 children.

GIG Person and LLR Cain put “CHARITY” in the forefront of their administrations, working “TOGETHER” to dispense charity to those who were in the need of assistance, and thanking the Creator of All for his Grace and Endless Unmeasurable Mercies to those who put their “TRUST” in Him.
United Supreme Council - Annual Deputy’s Conference

January 9 – 10, 2016

(Pictured) On Friday, January 9 and Saturday, January 10, 2015, Sovereign Grand Commander, Dr. Solomon Wallace, 33º, his Cabinet, Deputies and their Assistants from across the Northern Jurisdiction, assembled in Valley Beachwood, Orient of Ohio, for their Annual Deputy’s Conference, hosted by the Ill. Deputy SGIG Sidney Broadnax and the Officers and member of the OCOD. We were graced with the presence of MWGM Carl A. Williams, MWPHGL of OH and SGIG Asst. Convention Coordinator.