



The Texas Prince Hall Freemason



Official Publication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas
Volume I - Issue 1 - Winter 2010

Hon. Wilbert M. Curtis
M.W. Grand Master
The Most Worshipful
Prince Hall
Grand Lodge,
F.&A.M. of Texas



“Build on the Foundation of Prince Hall”

Table of Contents

Grand Master's Message.....	3
Grand Master's Calendar.....	4
Mid-Winter Proclamation.....	5
Elected Grand Lodge Officers.....	6
135th Annual Grand Session.....	7
Prince Hall Charitable Foundation.....	11
Winner of Joint Grand Car Raffle.....	12
Prince Hall Monument Erected.....	14
District Activities.....	19
Building Bridges.....	30
Membership and You.....	31
Growing a Lodge.....	32
Book Review, Masonry in Texas.....	33
Historical Corner.....	35
Spotlight.....	37
Royal Arch Masonry Workshop.....	38
Grand Guild kicks off Toy Drive.....	39
Connecticut celebrates Recognition.....	40
Upcoming Events.....	41
2010-2011 Grand Installations.....	43



From the Editor

Greetings,

It is an honor to serve The M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas as the Editor of the re-established quarterly publication, *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason*. The Publications Committee has worked diligently to produce a high-quality product for your Masonic consumption. This publication provides an additional communication arrow in our Masonic quivers. Its purpose is not only to inform the Jurisdiction of activities in Texas but also to educate and serve as a feedback mechanism.

Fraternally,
H.P.M. Burrell D. Parmer

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason accepts submissions of articles and photographs of general interest to Prince Hall Masons throughout the Lone Star State. *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason* is published quarterly in the months of November, February, May and August. Submissions of articles and photographs are to be forwarded to the publication's Editor via email. Articles and photographs become the property of the publication and the right is reserved to edit and use the articles and photographs as deemed necessary. Deadline for submissions is the 15th day of the preceding quarter. Articles are to be submitted using Microsoft Word (Arial 11) and photographs should be in JPEG format (150 - 300 dpi) and captioned (Times New Roman 11). Send all submissions to parmermasonic-traveler@hotmail.com. Permission to reprint original articles appearing in *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason* is granted to all recognized Masonic publications.

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason

Publisher

M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis

Editor

H.P.M. Burrell D. Parmer

Publications Committee

Chairman/Layout & Design, **H.P.M Burrell D. Parmer**

Layout & Design, **P.M. Edward S. Jones**

Copy Editor, **P.M. Frederic Milliken**

Copy Editor, **P.M. Burnell White Jr.**

Photography, **W.M. Bernard Brown**

Webmaster, **P.M. Clary Glover Jr.**

Grand Lodge Officers

2010 - 2011

Grand Master

M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis

Past Grand Master

Hon. Edwin B. Cash

Deputy Grand Master

R.W. Michael T. Andersen

Grand Senior Warden

R.W. Bryce Hardin Sr.

Grand Junior Warden

R.W. Frank D. Jackson

Grand Secretary

R.W. Hubert L. Reece Sr.

Grand Treasurer

R.W. Robert J. Datcher

Grand Tyler

R.W. Vernon J. James

Grand Auditors

R.W. Ernie Williams

R.W. Samuel Hobbs Jr.

R.W. Robert Hicks Sr.

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason is an official publication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas and Jurisdiction. It is published four times a year for the members of Texas Prince Hall Lodges, their families, and friends. Opinions expressed by the Editor and contributing writers do not necessarily reflect official positions of the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas.

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. of Texas

P.O. Box 1478

Ft. Worth, Texas 76101

Office: (817) 534-4612

Fax: (817) 534-9289

Email: pha@flash.net



Message from the Grand Master

Greetings,

I would like to talk about, "Living Our Vision and Celebrating Our Future!" It is a dynamic and proactive topic that encompasses the past, present and future.

This message will define or give the "literal" meaning of the theme, "Living Our Vision and Celebrating Our Future;" acknowledge an individual who, because of his vision, have made life better for us; identify some roadblocks that might hinder us from living our vision; and provide a purpose for having a vision in our lives.

Living: (def) having life or still active; being active.

Our: (def) a possessive pronoun form of we.

Vision: (def) something seen in the mind or in a dream; the ability to imagine or foresee what cannot actually be seen. Another definition of Vision is the ability to see beyond one's next step. Vision requires looking towards the horizon and the journey's end.

Celebrating: (def) to honor a victory; the memory of something in some special way.

Future: (def) in the time to come; after the present time.

So when we say, "Living Our Vision and Celebrating Our Future", to me, it means; we are actively experiencing our dreams and honoring the victory of our vision in a special way with our eyes on the future, the future being our youth. In our daily lives, our homes, our work and our Masonic Family, we need for everyone to have positive visions. As members and more so as leaders of any organization, it is very important to have a vision and goals for what we expect from our organization. The goals should be measurable in order to celebrate the successes.

Thank God we had men such as Prince Hall who felt the need to pursue his dream for becoming a Freemason. He knew how this fraternal organization could be used to improve the social and economical living conditions through fraternal bond and fellowship. He along with fourteen other men of color had to start their own Lodge in order to take care of their own. Today, in that same spirit, we as Prince Hall Freemasons must continue to improve our social and economical conditions for those who will come after us through education.

Just as important as having a vision is sharing that vision in order for everyone to see the big picture. Everyone wants to know where the organization is going and how that direction affects their objectives. The only way that you will be able to realize the vision is to communicate it to those that will be able to help you fulfill the vision.

Now, "Living our Vision" is not always a bed of roses. It is not always easy. There may be some road blocks placed in your path that will require you to work through, over, under and around to fulfill your vision. I had to overcome some roadblocks. I ask that you read carefully and see if you can recognize or have encountered the four roadblocks that I had to overcome to live my vision of being the M.W. Grand Master of Texas. This list is by no means is complete, but should provide some food for thought:

Fear of Failure: We fear that what we attempt to do may not work just the way we planned. It may make us look as though we aren't smart enough. We fear that if we fail, we will lose respect. It is better to do nothing than face that potential embarrassment.

Fear of Success: We fear that if it all goes well, the competition will point their big guns at us. More demands will be placed on us, and we'll have to spend all our time striving to stay ahead of the competition. Eventually, if we slip from the top slot, we'll look like losers.

Complacency: We're doing just fine with the status quo, so if it isn't broke, don't fix it. No need to make changes – it would cause chaos and unrest. Just let the current strategy be our strategy. Don't rock the boat!

Analysis Paralysis: So many options exist that we can't choose the one we think is best for us. They're all good options; each with pros and cons. And if we choose one, a better option may come along, but by then we'll already be committed to a course of action. Let's just keep analyzing until a "perfect" plan presents itself.

These are just four of many roadblocks that you may encounter while trying to live your vision. Another name for these roadblocks is "excuses". I don't have adequate time to address these excuses head on, but the way to overcome these is to examine the benefits of vision and live them to the fullest extent. I could go on, but I think you see the picture. And remember, a vision doesn't need to be perfect. It's okay if every detail is not in place and a few variables exist, but the path to success must not be met due to excuses.

The Bible says in Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Let me ask this question, where do you want to be in three years time? Do you have a vision to be more God like than you are today? Or are you simply happy to just float along, and whatever will be, will be? Or, do you get a vision for the things of God, and be a person that is purpose driven?

It's good to have goals for God. The Bible says in Philippians 3:14, "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." We need to have goals in life for God. We need to have personal goals. We need to have dreams to believe in. We need to have a vision to serve God and to be determined to see it through. That is "Living Our Vision."

Fraternally yours,

Wilbert M. Curtis, M.W. Grand Master

Grand Master's Calendar

November 2010 - June 2011

Date	Location	Event
November 2010		
Saturday, Nov. 6	Ft. Worth	Prepare for Mid-Winter Session
Friday - Saturday, Nov. 12 - 13	Ft. Worth	Mid-Winter Session
December 2010		
Friday - Saturday, Dec. 17 - 18	Ft. Worth	Christmas Giveaway
January 2011		
Saturday - Sunday, Jan. 8 - 9	Houston	Norris Wright Cuney Annual Luncheon
Saturday, Jan. 22	Ft. Worth	Districts 10, 11, & 20 Workshop
Sunday, Jan. 30	Houston	District 15-A Drum Line Competition
February 2011		
Thursday - Sunday, Feb. 3 - 6	San Antonio	York Rite Weekend
Friday - Sunday, Feb. 25 - 27	Pine Bluff, Ark.	Arkansas Grand Communication
March 2011		
Wednesday - Sunday, March 2 - 7	Tampa, Fla.	38th Phylaxis Annual Session
Thursday - Sunday, March 10 - 13	Houston	Council of Deliberation
Saturday, March 19	Arlington	King of the Court Basketball Tourney
Friday - Sunday, March 25 - 27	Las Vegas, Nev.	Four Corners Region Conference of Grand Masters
April 2011		
Saturday, April 2	Dallas	Queen of Sheba OES Banquet
Sunday, April 17	TBD	Palm Sunday Services
May 2011		
Wednesday - Sunday, May 11 - 15	Jacksonville, Fla.	Conference of Grand Masters Annual Conference
Friday - Monday, May 27 - 30	TBD	United Supreme Council, Northern Jurisdiction
June 2011		
Monday - Tuesday, June 6 - 7	Tulsa, Okla.	Oklahoma Grand Session
TBD	Baton Rouge, La.	Louisiana Grand Session
Sunday, June 12	Ft. Worth	Prepare for Grand Lodge Session
Thursday - Sunday, June 23 - 26	Ft. Worth	136th Grand Communication

Elected Grand Lodge Officers



Past Grand Master
Hon. Edwin B. Cash



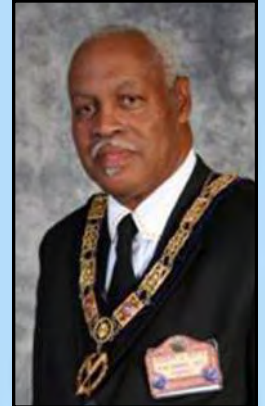
Deputy Grand Master
R.W. Michael T. Andersen



Grand Senior Warden
R.W. Bryce Hardin Sr.



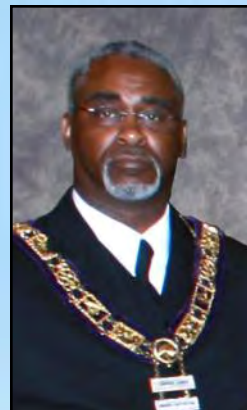
Grand Junior Warden
R.W. Frank D. Jackson



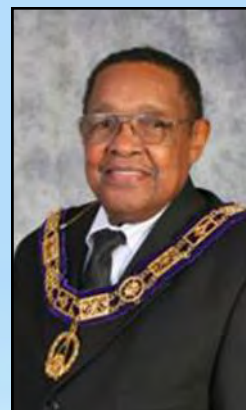
Grand Secretary
R.W. Hubert L. Reece Sr.



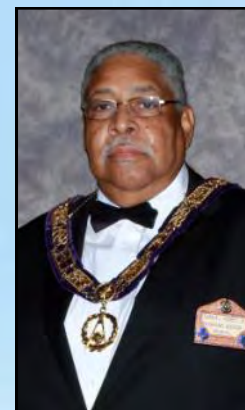
Grand Treasurer
R.W. Robert J. Datcher



Grand Tyler
R.W. Vernon J. James



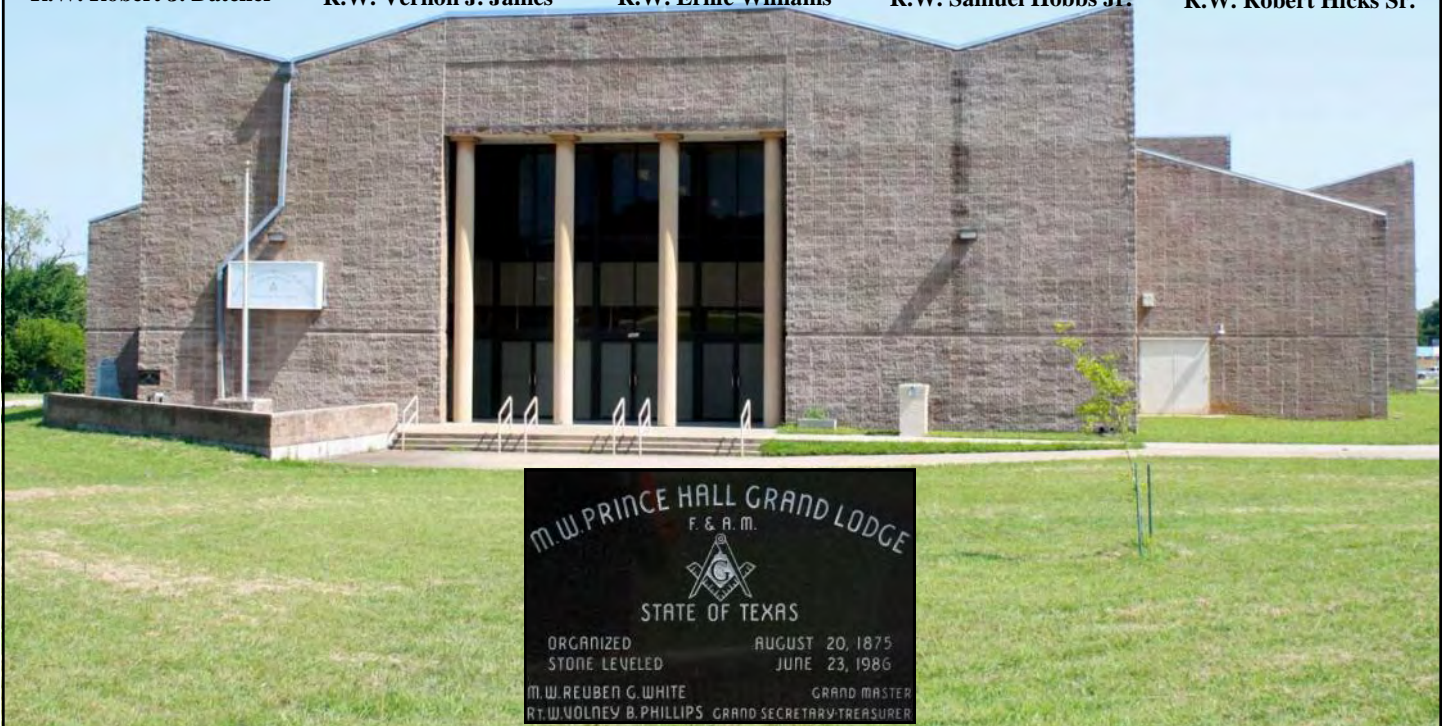
Grand Auditor
R.W. Ernie Williams



Grand Auditor
R.W. Samuel Hobbs Jr.



Grand Auditor
R.W. Robert Hicks Sr.



*The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons
of Texas and Jurisdiction*



Proclamation

To: All Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers, All Past Masters, Honorary Past Masters, Worshipful Masters, Wardens, Local Lodge Officers and Master Masons

From: Hon. Wilbert M. Curtis
M. W. Grand Master

Date: September 6, 2010

Subject: **2010 Mid-Winter Session**

By the authority vested in the office of the Grand Master and in accordance with the Constitution of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, Article III, Section 2, I, Wilbert M. Curtis, am hereby calling The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas into the 2010 Mid-Winter Session for degree work on November 12, 2010, a Special Session and workshops on November 13, 2010 at the Grand Masonic Temple, located 3433 M.L.K. Freeway, Ft. Worth, Texas. **The headquarters hotel will be the Radisson Hotel North, 2540 Meacham Blvd, Fort Worth, Texas, 76106.**

In support of the **2nd Annual Prince Hall Masonic Family Toy Drive and Christmas Give-Away**, each brother attending the Mid-Winter Session is asked to bring one un-wrapped toy for children 16 and under, with a minimum of 10 toys per Lodge. (See and post enclosed flyer)

I am asking each District Deputy Grand Master to bring a minimum of 7 Fellow Craft Masons to be raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason by the Grand Lodge Degree Team and the Grand Master. The Fellow Craftsmen will be required to register for the Mid-Winter Session. They are to report to the Grand Lecturer at 5:45 p.m. An Occasional Lodge will open promptly at 6:00 p.m. by District Deputy Ronald Gerac and Masonic District 15-A. Ritualistic work will begin at 6:45 p.m. The Worshipful Master of the Fellow Craftsmen is responsible for properly preparing and clothing your candidates. I want to raise a minimum of 100 Master Masons that night. The dress for Master Masons is **Masonic Dress** for both Friday and Saturday Sessions.

The 2010 Mid-Winter Special Session will officially convene at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 13, 2010 at the Grand Masonic Temple to transact business that requires the attention of the Grand Lodge. Afterwards, the Grand Lodge will be called from labor to refreshment for the purpose of training, workshops and other presentations on topics of importance. This year's Mid-Winter session will include a luncheon.

There is a \$25.00 per Lodge registration fee and a \$25.00 advanced registration fee for each Master Mason that attends the Mid-Winter Session. The on-site registration will be \$35. (This includes candidates that will be raised at this Session).

Note: The subordinate Lodge, Master and both Wardens are required to register for the Mid-Winter Session whether or not they attend. Any Lodge that does not fulfill these obligations will be declared un-square and will not be represented at the 2011 Grand Communication until the Mid-Winter Session obligations are fulfilled. It must be paid in order for the lodge and members of the lodge to participate in the Mid-Winter Special Grand Lodge Session and have a voice in the very important issues that will come before the Grand Body.

I look forward to seeing all of you there, ready to learn and ready to go to work.

Take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.
I remain...

Fraternally yours,

Wilbert M. Curtis
Wilbert M. Curtis
M.W. Grand Master

Attested by: Hubert L. Reece
Hubert L. Reece
R. W. Grand Secretary

Prince Hall Masonic Family convenes in Ft. Worth for Annual Grand Sessions



M.W. Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis is escorted to the Grand East by Knights Templar of the Lone Star Grand Commandery at the Grand Masonic Temple, June 25.

Story by:

G.E. Burrell Parmer (1)

Photos by:

G.P. Rev. Bernard Brown (324)

FT. WORTH – Membership representing the subordinate Lodges of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, Free and Accepted Masons and Jurisdiction, gathered together at the Grand Masonic Temple to convene their 135th Annual Grand Session here, June 24 – 27.

Concurrently, members of the Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho and Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter convened their 126th and 14th Annual Grand Communications, respectively.

The Grand Lodge Session began with the opening of an Occasional Lodge by True Square Lodge No. 108.

A Grand Session Workshop followed and included briefings from M.W. Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis on the Conference of

Grand Masters' official website www.conferenceofgrandmastersph.org, Bogus Masonry and Ecclesiastes 12 by Grand Lecturer Ivory Johnson Jr. and the upcoming Grand Lodge Publication by the Grand Editor, among others.

"It was the idea of our Grand Master that we have these workshops," said R.W. Grand Senior Warden Willie High Coleman Jr., who served as the workshop's facilitator.

At the conclusion of the workshop, G.S.W. Coleman asked the Craft to submit comments and feedback so that next year's workshop will be more beneficial. He thanked all the Brothers who attended.

"The workshop was very informative, especially about Bogus Masonry," said Worshipful Master Bodie McClain of Pride of Ennis Lodge No. 420.

"I am excited about the new publication that will be coming out and

the direction moving forward," said Brother Sam Williamson of Maple Leaf Lodge No. 147. "The lesson that I found most beneficial was Ecclesiastes 12."

After lunch, 44 Worshipful Masters received the Past Master Degree along with four others who received the Honorary Past Master Degree.

In the evening, the Prince Hall Masonic Family Choir along with others performed at the Session's hotel headquarters, the Radisson Fort Worth North.

On Friday, the Occasional Lodge resumed and received the District Deputies, Grand Lodge officers, and G.M. Curtis, who received the only living Past Grand Master of the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas, P.G.M. Edwin B. Cash.

Once the gavel of authority was transferred from R.W. Deputy Grand Master Michael T. Anderson to G.M. Curtis, leaders of the concordant bodies were received, who included Most Excellent Grand High Priest Willie Tate, Holy Royal Arch Masons of Texas; Right Eminent Grand Commander Tony Moore, Lone Star Grand Commandery; and Deputy of the Orient of Texas Dr. John Butler Jr., United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Masonry, Prince Hall Affiliated, Southern Jurisdiction.

Distinguished visitors were then received and included the Grand Masters of Arkansas, M.W. Cleveland K. Wilson; Louisiana, M.W. Dr. Ralph Slaughter and Oklahoma, M.W. Deary Vaughn, who also serves as the Sovereign Grand Commander of the U.S.C., S.J.

This occurrence served as the first in which all Grand Masters of



G.M. Curtis welcomes the Craft to the 135th Annual Grand Communication. Seated from left to right: H.P.G.M. Norris L. McVea Sr., D.G.M. John Miller (Ariz.), P.G.M. Edwin B. Cash, G.M. Deary Vaughn (Okla.), G.M. Dr. Ralph Slaughter (La.), and G.M. Cleveland K. Wilson (Ark.). Seated bottom from left to right: D.G.M. Michael T. Anderson and W.M. Samuel T. Albert.

the South-West Region were present at a Texas Grand Lodge Communication.

Other distinguished visitors included R.W.D.G.M. of Arizona, John Miller; P.G.M. J. Raymond Murray of the District of Columbia, and the D.G.H.P. Roosevelt Huggins of the General Conference Grand Chapters Holy Royal Arch Masons of the United States and the Bahamas.

Over 16 reports from committees were delivered before the Craft to include stewardship reports from D.G.M. Anderson, G.S.W. Coleman and R.W. Grand Junior Warden Bryce Hardin Sr.

During the Communication, members of the Order of the Knights of Pythagoras were presented before the Craft and Sir Knight Rodrick Levi presented a certificate of appreciation to G.M. Curtis for the support that the Grand Lodge provided to their Order. In the evening, the Saint John/Memorial Service was held at the Radisson. The sermon was

delivered by Grand Chaplain Dr. John Butler Jr., who opened up in song.

His key message was that we ought to get right with God.

"He sees us in everything we do," said G.Chap. Butler. "God wants us to move forward, for His

purpose. There is a God and He has prepared a place for us above the horizon. We have an opportunity today to make a difference and prepare for the place that God has prepared for us."

He said that it may not be easy, but we must hold out to the very end. He ended as he started with a song.

Sister Kim Gould of Century Chapter No. 24, Order of the Eastern Star, commented on the service.

"It was wonderful and touched me spiritually," said Sis. Gould.

"This was my first Saints John Service and I am looking forward to those in the future. It gave me a sense of pride."

Heroine K. H. Matthie of Sarah Court No. 1, HOJ, said that the service was fantastic.

"It moved us and nourished our soul; it brought us closer to God."

During the service, each organization announced the number of those called Home.

The Grand Lodge lost 63 members, OES lost 4 and HOJ lost 110.

On Saturday, G.M. Curtis delivered his Allocution in a joint session that included the Heroines and



Photo by: G.E. Burrell Parmer

Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family attends the Saint John/Memorial Service at the Radisson, June 25.



Photo by: G.E. Burrell Parmer

G.Treas. Robert J. Datcher delivers an award to Kyrsten Blackmon, the 1st place winner of the J. T. Maxey Scholarship Program, at the Joint Annual Awards Banquet, June 26.

Eastern Stars.

After conclusion of the Grand Master's Allocution, nominations for elections were held.

Once voting ended, membership gathered at the Radisson to attend the Annual Awards Luncheon.

During the luncheon, numerous awards were presented by the Grand Chapter to include Chapters of the Year, Imani Chapter No. 52 and Stars of Faith No. 66, and the Traveling Award, District 11.

The top-membership award for HOJ was presented to Lakeview Court No. 262 with 36 new Heroines.

Scholarship winners were then announced.

The Grand Lodge awarded 13 scholarships totaling \$16,000.

HOJ awarded three scholarships totaling \$7,000.

OES awarded 14 scholarships totaling \$18,500.

The overall winner of the J. T. Maxey Scholarship Contest was Kyrsten Blackmon of Van Vleck, who was awarded \$3,000.

The J.T. Maxey Scholarship Program demonstrates the Grand Lodge's commitment to youth and education.

Blackmon, who graduated from Van Vleck High School, was encouraged by Bro. Thomas Swist of District 14, who is a minister at her church.

She plans to attend the University of Texas to pursue a degree in Pharmacy.

The awarding of the top scholar-

ship was very significant to the future Longhorn.

"Winning this scholarship is very important to me and I was honored to be able to represent my District. They believed in me by selecting me to represent them, and I am happy that I was able to do so by winning the top scholarship."

Additionally, a King of the Court donation of \$1,500 was provided to One Church One Child, which is a special adoption recruitment program which was initially designed to reach out to the African American community to recruit families for children in foster care.

One Church One Child has evolved into a complete child



H.P.G.M. Watkins

placing agency that serves the entire community, according to the organization's website www.ocotexas.org.

With the award luncheon completed, the Grand Lodge Communication was reconvened and remaining committees delivered their annual reports.

Near the conclusion of the Grand Communication, Grand Lodge awards were presented for

Annual Elections

Grand Master:	M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis
Deputy Grand Master:	R.W. Michael T. Anderson
Grand Senior Warden:	R.W. Bryce Hardin Sr.
Grand Junior Warden:	R.W. Frank D. Jackson
Grand Secretary:	R.W. Hubert L. Reece Sr.
Grand Treasurer:	R.W. Robert J. Datcher
Grand Tyler:	R.W. Vernon J. James
Grand Auditor:	R.W. Robert Hicks Sr.

Annual Awards

Secretary:	P.M. Frank D. Glover Sr. (624)
District:	District 11
D.D.G.M.:	P.M. Marcus Walker, District 11
Lodge:	True Square Lodge No. 108
Worshipful Master:	W.M. Samuel T. Albert (108)
Master Mason	P.M. Donald Marshall (445)



Photo by: G.E. Burrell Parmer

Fort Worth City Councilman, Bro. Frank Moss, presents G.M. Curtis with the key to the city during the Annual Prince Hall Masonic Family Banquet held at the Radisson, June 26.

the 2009 – 2010 Masonic Year.

After presentations of awards, G.M. Curtis summoned Grand Medical Director Dr. Ulysses Watkins of Ever-Ready Lodge No. 506 to the East and made him an Honorary Past Grand Master.

After a standing round of applause, G.M. Curtis congratulated the newly elected officers and for all who attended the Grand Communication, he then proceeded to close the 135th Annual Grand Communication.

To close out the night, the Prince Hall Masonic Family attended the Annual Prince Hall Masonic Family Banquet at the Radisson.

For the tremendous work that the Prince Hall Masonic Family have done in the City of Fort Worth, City Councilman Bro. Frank Moss presented G.M. Curtis, Grand Worthy Matron Martha Wolridge and Grand Most Ancient Matron Jackie Levingston with keys to the city.

The guest speaker was G.J.W. Frank D. Jackson, who provided an astounding account of Prince Hall Masonry in Texas and a brief look into his upbringing to include his work in Prairie View.

G.J.W. Jackson, who also serves as the Mayor of Prairie View, said that the Prince Hall Masonic Family has been blessed.



Photo by: G.E. Burrell Parmer

Guest speaker G.J.W. Jackson

"We have good leadership and need to continue working together. The Prince Hall Masonic Family is the best vehicle to show our young people how to be successful."

After a standing ovation, a raffle for a new Ford Fusion or Mustang was conducted. The winner of the 2010 Joint Car Raffle was Sis. Joyce Peavy of Cubie Horton Chapter No. 19, who is also the wife of D.D.G.M. Grady Peavy Jr. of District 19.

The final presentation of the night was the Norris Wright Cuney Award, the highest Masonic award that the Grand Lodge can present.

G.M. Curtis presented the annual award to P.M. Robert B. Calloway Jr., who also serves as the Grand Worthy Patron of the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter.

According to G.M. Curtis, G.W.P. Calloway spearheaded numerous activities of the Grand Lodge that included the car raffle and the Grand Lodge's 1st Annual Toy Drive/Christmas Giveaway.

On Sunday morning, P.G.M. Cash installed G.M. Curtis along with the elected and appointed Grand Lodge officers. He was assisted by G.M. Wilson, who installed the Grand High Court and Grand Chapter officers.



Photo by: G.E. Burrell Parmer

G.M. Curtis presents the Norris Wright Cuney Award to G.W.P. Calloway during the Prince Hall Masonic Family Banquet, June 26.

Texas Prince Hall Charitable Foundation: Who we are, What we do, How you can help



The Prince Hall Charitable Foundation provides funding for the Knights of Pythagoras' Annual Conference and the Robert E. Connor Youth Camp.

Story by:

G.L.A. Willie High Coleman Jr. (646)
Chairman, PHCF

Photos by:

G.P. Rev. Bernard Brown (324)

FT. WORTH – The Texas Prince Hall Charitable Foundation represents the Grand Lodge at work.

We are a 501 c (3) non-profit corporation established to dispense Charity on behalf of and in conjunction with The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas.

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Grand Master. Current board members are Grand Legal Advisor Willie High Coleman Jr., Chairman; Grand Treasurer Robert Datcher; Grand Secretary Hubert Reece Sr.; Grand Auditor Robert Hicks; Honorary Past Grand Master Kerven Carter; Grand Youth Director Charles Dewitt; and Grand Marshal Ronald Gerac. M.W. Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis serves as an Ex

Officio member of the Board.

The PHCF is funded by annual donations from the Grand Lodge membership, annual Youth Camp donations from the Masonic Districts, Concordant, Appendant and Affiliated bodies, individual and corporate contributions and grants for the youth camp, Knights of Pythagoras, scholarships, museum/library and other charitable donations.

The following annual activities are being funded through the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation:

- J. T. Maxey Scholarships
- Robert E. Connor, Jr. Youth Camp
- Knights of Pythagoras Annual Conference
- Prince Hall Masonic Family Christmas Giveaway
- Other charitable Activities.

We are happy to report that this year the Foundation awarded

\$15,000 in scholarships to high school graduates. The Robert E. Connor Jr. Youth Camp was held July 15 -18 in Oakland, Texas and hosted 53 youth campers. The Knights of Pythagoras held a successful Youth Leadership Conference in Houston at Texas Southern University. Planning is underway for the Prince Hall Masonic Family Christmas Giveaway to be held at the Grand Temple on Dec. 18.

You are invited to help us help others during the holiday season.

The PHCF is in need of grant researchers and writers. We are a 501 c (3) and grants are available which may support our current programs and expand into other charitable areas.

This is your Foundation. Help us to be a greater success.



Families of the Ft. Worth area walk away with toys for Christmas during the 1st Annual Prince Hall Masonic Family Christmas Giveaway held at the Grand Temple in Dec. 2009. Similar type activities are being funding through the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation.



Winner of Joint Grand Car Raffle drives off in New Mustang

Story by:

G.E. Burrell Parmer (1)

Photos by:

G.P. Rev. Bernard Brown (324)

FT. WORTH – In 1964, Ford Motor Company introduced a vehicle which gave rise to General Motors' Chevrolet Camaro, AMC's Javelin, and Chrysler's Plymouth Barracuda, it was called the Mustang.

Forty-six years later at Texas Motors Ford, the newest Mustang was delivered to Sister Joyce G. Peavy of Cubie Horton Chapter No. 19, Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter, July 10.

Sis. Peavy won the Mustang through the Joint Grand Car Raffle sponsored by The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho, and N.W.C.G.C. during the Joint Grand Session Banquet held, June 26.

During the drawing, Sis. Peavy was away on business, but her husband, District Deputy Grand Master Grady Peavy Jr. was present with her ticket stub and called her to deliver the good news.

"I asked, 'what car?' He said the one you won with your raffle ticket. I then said, 'it's unbelievable.' I hung up the phone and called my travelling partner yelling, 'I won a car; I won a car.' I finally said I'd better be quiet before they throw me out of the hotel."

According to Sis. Peavy, she never thought about winning.

Sis. Peavy also had an opportunity to choose either the Mustang or a Ford Fusion.

"Oh, to be young again, the Ford Mustang is a really popular car; that is why I chose it over the Fusion."

It was a great feeling to sit in that Mustang for the first time said Sis. Peavy.



Sis. Joyce G. Peavy sits in her new 2011 Ford Mustang at Texas Motors Ford, July 10. Sis. Peavy won the car during a Joint Grand Car Raffle during the Prince Hall Masonic Family Banquet held at the Radisson North, June 26.

"Now what you need to know is I really felt 35 driving on 35 to San Antonio. 'Mustang Sally' has nothing on 'Mustang Joyce.' I left Brother Peavy in the dust on the way home. He said, 'I needed to slow my Mustang down.'"

For those who did not buy tickets.

"You are really missing out on supporting a great cause. I purchase at least 10 tickets each year. It has never been for the idea of winning; however, winning is great. We must stay focused on the cause," said Sis. Peavy.

For her gratitude, Sis. Peavy donated \$1,000 to the Grand Lodge's Prince Hall Charitable Foundation.

"The Grand Lodge is very supportive of the Districts. Bro. Peavy and I will do whatever is necessary to support its efforts and the fine work it does."

The Mustang was provided under invoice according to Francine Igo, Texas Motors Ford fleet manager.

"Bryce Hardin approached the dealership months ago letting us know what the Masons were planning to do and asked for our help. We were very excited in participating in such a worthy cause. Texas Motors Ford would like to thank the Masons for choosing us to be a part of this wonderful event. We look forward to next year! I am buying a ticket," said Igo.

According to R.W. Grand Junior Warden Hardin Sr., the idea of the car raffle was funneled through the Grand Lodge's Ways and Means Committee on ways of raising capital to support the Grand Lodge's functions and charitable works. Other Prince Hall Masonic Jurisdictions have held similar type fundraisers that have been successful and very profitable.

"Our own Joint Committee Chairman, Grand Worthy Patron Robert Calloway, was a recent recipient of a new Honda Accord sponsored by the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Arkansas in a similar fundraiser."



R.W. Grand Treasurer Robert J. Datcher renders a check to Texas Motors Ford while Sis. Joyce G. Peavy signs the required paperwork, July 10.

Collectively we knew with the support on the Brothers and Sisters of this organization, the fundraiser would be a success," said G.J.W. Hardin.

"We would like to give thanks to

all who participated in the ticket sales and to all that made this fundraiser a success. `Special Thanks' to Sis. Peavey who made a charitable donation to the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation. Thanks to the men and women at Texas Motors Ford for their assistance. And last but not least, our own M.W. Grand Master, the Honorable Wilbert M. Curtis for having a vision of success!"

G.M. Curtis said that this was the culmination of another successful effort of the Prince Hall Masonic Family of Texas working together toward a common goal.

He also said that proceeds from the car raffle help the Prince Hall Masonic Family with Charity and community service activities.



Cambridge erects Monument to Honor Prince Hall



Photo by: G.H. James Young II

Story by:
G.E. Burrell Parmer (1)

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – It was in 2005 when E. Denise Simmons, then mayor of Cambridge, initiated an effort to erect a monument to one of America's "Founding Fathers", the Honorable Prince Hall, who also was the first Grand Master of African Grand Lodge and founder of Prince Hall Freemasonry.

This effort came to fruition on May 15, 2010 at the Cambridge Common rotunda, where several monuments commemorating significant historical figures and events reside.

"The Cambridge Common is in many ways hallowed ground, with monuments to important people and events in the history of Cambridge, and the entire nation," said Simmons. "By memorializing Prince Hall, and the principles he stood for, we pay homage to those that suffered through slavery, and honor those that fought against it,

and provided a foundation for what would become the modern Civil Rights Movement."

The monument to Prince Hall is the first to recognize an African American on the Cambridge Common, historic for being the site where Gen. George Washington formed the Continental Army.

"I want people to remember that the fight for civil rights didn't begin



G.H. Young II and Simmons

in the 1960's but in the 1700's, and Prince Hall was an individual who had a direct impact on this movement and still does to this day," said Simmons. "He advocated for the inclusion of African Americans in the Continental Army, an end to slavery, and for the education of black children."

In 2005, a committee was established by Simmons and gained approval from the Cambridge Historic Commission to design and place the memorial on the Cambridge Common rotunda near the George Washington Memorial according to Past Master James Young II, Grand Historian of the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Michigan, who was appointed a committee member by Simmons along with P.M. Ray Coleman, Grand Historian and P.M. Redd Mitchell, Chairman of Masonic Education, both of the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Massachusetts.

"This is the first time in this country's history where we find a municipality, especially in these times, who wished to break ground and place a fitting monument to our founder," said G.H. Young and further elaborated. "The Prince Hall Monument Project is indeed a municipality effort which was, again, spearheaded by former mayor, E. Denise Simmons. It was Simmons who wanted to honor Prince Hall in her city."

According to G.H. Young, the mayor's office, initially, did not seek at gaining support from the Prince Hall Affiliated organizations nor possess the knowledge on how to make contact with these organizations.

Although Simmons initially appointed G.H. Young to develop and maintain the official Prince Hall Monument website: www.princehallmemorial.org,



G.M. Curtis meets Simmons at the C.o.G.M.'s annual banquet held in Boston in May.

he became one of the major instruments of Public Relations among the Prince Hall organizations.

"Every Prince Hall Affiliated Grand Master received formal communication from the mayor's office. Of all the Prince Hall Affiliated Grand Lodges, only 10 responded favorably in terms of monetarily supporting this effort, as well as, provide official endorsement," said G.H. Young.

At its 134th Annual Communication in June 2009, The M.W. P.H.G.L. of Texas approved a resolution declaring Prince Hall a "Founding Father of the United States of America," and provided a \$1,000 donation through its Prince Hall Charitable Trust.

In July 2009, the Memorial Commission presented the plan of a memorial to the Conference of Grand Masters, Prince Hall Masons, Inc., at their 90th Annual Session held in Los Angeles.

During the session, the C.o.G.M. provided official endorsement and a donation of \$1,000.

"In addition to the donations being made by Prince Hall Masons around the world and those Prince Hall Grand Lodge Jurisdictions that make up the Conference, the Conference of Grand Masters Prince Hall Masons, Inc. is supporting this effort by making a contribution through its Charitable Foundation.

We commend the Honorable E. Denise Simmons and the Prince Hall Monument Committee for the vision to erect a Prince Hall Memorial monument on Cambridge Common," said M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis (Texas), Conference President.

Additionally, G.M. Curtis sent official correspondence to each of the 47 Grand Masters which make up the C.o.G.M. imploring them to make a charitable contribution to this worthy endeavor.

"To improve on the legacy of our Founding Father, Prince Hall, we the Conference of Grand Masters not only made a donation to the City of Cambridge's monument to

zations such as the Grand Lodge of Michigan, the National Grand Lodge (P.H.O.) and the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Mississippi (P.H.O) supported the project.

A donation of \$1,000 was also contributed by the Phylaxis Society, an international organization of Prince Hall Freemasons dedicated to studying the life of Prince Hall and researching the history of Prince Hall Freemasonry, said G.M. Curtis, who serves as a member of the board.

Additionally, the Desert of Louisiana (A.E.A.O.N.M.S), the Grand Eminent Commander, Knights Templar (Louisiana) and three Ma-



Simmons gives remarks during the C.o.G.M.'s annual banquet.

Prince Hall but the Conference was one of the first National/International Prince Hall Masonic Organizations to endorse the project," said G.M. Curtis.

Outside of the Prince Hall Affiliated Grand Lodges, the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine (Prince Hall Shriners) donated towards this project.

Non-Prince Hall Affiliated organi-

sonic youth groups in Ohio supported the monument said G.H. Young.

The monument, which cost approximately \$100,000 was made possible solely through donations.

According to G.H. Young, the majority of donations were received from outside the Prince Hall Affiliated organizations.

"Our largest support from any



Photo by: Daderot

Prince Hall Monument located on Copp's Hill Burying Ground adjacent to Sarah Ritchie and Prince Hall's grave marker. It was dedicated by the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Massachusetts on June 24, 1895.

Masonic body was derived from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts A.F. & A.M., who, not only endorsed the monument, but also, donated the sum of \$20,000," said G.H. Young. "Donations were also received from the United Grand Lodge of England, and an official endorsement from United Grand Lodge of Greece."

"From non-Masonic organizations, I personally sought support from various organizations and individuals. I was successful in gaining the support from Dr. Cornel West (Princeton University); Professor Henry Louis Gates (Harvard University); Alpha Phi Alpha; Omega Psi Phi, Phi Beta Sigma, and Sigma Pi Phi (The Boule) Fraternities, the Prince Hall Elementary School; The Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History; and Chris Hodapp (author of Freemasonry for Dummies)," said G.H. Young.

"The mayor's office was successful in gaining monetary support

from the likes of Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Leslye University, and two philanthropists in the Cambridge area who both donated \$10,000 each. Also, the former mayor was successful in receiving a \$10,000 donation from the Microsoft Corporation."

G.H. Young also acknowledged the support received through social medial networks to include Facebook and Prince Hall Ning websites.

"I truly appreciate every Brother and Sister who sent in five to hundreds of dollars, they too can say that a piece of that Prince Hall Monument belongs to them."

The project was originally scheduled to be completed in September 2009 but was postponed due to lack of full funding.

"The initial date of the unveiling was scheduled for Sept. 12, however, due to not having enough funds for completion, we were forced to cancel the unveiling until May 15, 2010," said G.H. Young. "In place of the original

unveiling date, we presented a Prince Hall Dedication ceremony which was held in a nearby church in Cambridge."

Misunderstandings may exist regarding the monument.

"This project was initiated by a municipality, in an effort to honor Prince Hall in their city

so, technically, this is not a national (nor Masonic) monument, however,

the monument stands on a national landmark," said G.H. Young.

Reports have been made that the Prince Hall Monument at the Cambridge Common rotunda is the nation's first memorial to Prince Hall. This is incorrect.

On June 24, 1895, the Prince Hall Masons of the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Massachusetts erected a monument to Prince Hall adjacent to his burial place located at Copp's Hill Burying Ground in Boston.

Each year numerous Prince Hall Masons gather there to pay homage to their founder.

The leadership from the C.o.G.M., Conference of Grand Matrons and Grand Patrons, and the Grand Master of the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Massachusetts visit the memorial every 10 years to conduct a wreath laying ceremony.

The Prince Hall Monument Committee will be convening before the end of the year to discuss promotional plans for the Prince Hall Monument through national campaigns and contests.



2010 wreath laying at the Prince Hall Monument by G.W.P. Robert B. Calloway Jr. (TX) and Pres. G.W.M. Winnie Johnson (Ark.) of the C.o.G.M. G.P., G.M. Anthony I. Jakes (Mass.), Pres. G.M. Wilbert M. Curtis (TX) and P.G.M. John M. Bettis (NJ), V.P. of the C.o.G.M.

Texas celebrates Prince Hall Americanism Day September 12, 2010



MATHIS — G.M. Wilbert M. Curtis and Masonic Family of Districts 18, 19, and 23.



HOUSTON — D.D.G.M. Ronald Gerac and Masonic Family of District 15-A.

Texas celebrates Prince Hall Americanism Day

September 12, 2010



FT. WORTH — D.D.G.M. Marcus Thomas and Masonic Family of District 20.



AUSTIN — D.D.G.M. Marvin Kelker and Masonic Family of District 24.

Texas celebrates Prince Hall Americanism Day

September 12, 2010



EL PASO — D.D.G.M. Derrick G. Jackson Sr. and Masonic Family of District 25.



KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — D.D.G.M. Odis D. Atkinson and Masonic Family of District 26-A.

District 15-A continues Masonic Tradition by performing a Cornerstone Laying Ceremony



Prince Hall Masons of District 15-A gather together after laying the Cornerstone at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, July 25.

Story and photos by:
W.M. Samuel T. Albert (108)

HOUSTON – One of the most beautiful events that can ever be observed is to watch Freemasons symbolically level a cornerstone.

The Cornerstone Ceremony has been a tradition in the Masonic world for centuries. This historical ceremony is usually reserved for important public and religious buildings, and is symbolic of laying the first stone of the foundation. Prince Hall Masons traditionally perform this significant ceremony as a symbolic dedication of the building's completion.

Brethren of District 15-A, together with R.W. Grand Junior Warden Frank Jackson, performed a Ritualistic Cornerstone Cere-

mony at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church (Dr. James E. Lightfoot, Pastor), July 25.

The ceremony was performed under the leadership of District Deputy Grand Master Ronald Gerac and all Lodges in District 15-A were represented for this commemorative occasion.

On the day of the ceremony, the Brethren endured 96 degree heat; however, the Brethren made the Prince Hall Masonic Family proud and endured the heat in traditional black suits in full Masonic regalia while performing a flawless ceremony.

In the book of Ephesians 2:20, the Apostle Paul speaks of the symbolism of the cornerstone.

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,

Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone."

The Brethren of District 15-A, with their work and dedication, continue to uphold the principles and tenants of Prince Hall Freemasonry and dedication to a higher Deity.



S.D.D.G.M. Rashad Sabree (147), representing the Deputy Grand Master, tries the stone with the Square.



G.J.W. Jackson proudly announces that the stone has passed the test of the Plumb.



Rev. Lightfoot delivers a prayer.

Changing the Image of Prince Hall Masonry...One Brother (Sister) at a Time

Story and photo by:
W.M. Samuel T. Albert (108)

HOUSTON – In today's environment there are many different perceptions about our Fraternal Order. Most people rely on what they see, or by simply reading published information. It is extremely important that we as Masons, Heroines, and Eastern Stars portray positive images that will solidify the fact that Prince Hall Masonry is alive and well in our community.

In order to dispel some of the myths and distorted information, we as members of these great fraternal orders have come together as one unit to make a positive impact in the community by promoting our beliefs in a

higher power and visiting houses of worship. We also have expanded our efforts by reaching out and meeting members of our community by conducting "meet and greet" events.

In keeping the spirit of "Changing the Image of Prince Hall Masonry...One Brother (and Sister) at a Time," the Brothers and Sisters of District 15-A, led by District Deputy Grand Master Ronald Gerac, visited Yale Street Baptist Church (T. Leon Preston II, Pastor), Aug. 29.

Multiple Lodges, Courts, and Chapters, as well as Grand Lodge

and Grand Chapter officers were present at this great event, especially our Grand Worthy Matron, Sister Martha Wolridge of the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter.

This sit-in service served several purposes.

It allowed our Prince Hall Masonic Family the opportunity to worship and praise the Great Architect of the Universe. Secondly, it allowed members of the community the opportunity to see what Prince Hall Masonry really stands

event was to allow men and women in the community to meet members of our Prince Hall Masonic Family and provide a valuable platform for them to ask questions and receive accurate information about our organization.

Those who attended this event came away with positive and accurate information that would assist them in their decision-making process.

The meet and greet event was a huge success and supported our

M.W. Grand Master, the Honorable Wilbert M. Curtis's vision to portray a positive image and increase our membership.

"Changing the Image of Prince Hall Masonry... One Brother (and Sister) at a Time"



Prince Hall Masonic Family of District 15-A pose with Pastor Preston.

for. And finally, our church visit created a positive and favorable image to members of the community and our Masonic body.

Church sit-in services are traditionally held every 5th Sunday.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." (Psalm 133).

In an effort to reach out to men and women who seek affiliation with our Prince Hall Masonic Family, D.D.G.M. Gerac, and other leaders of District 15-A, hosted a meet and greet event.

This event was held at Groove's Restaurant. The purpose of this

has become the driving force behind District 15-A's efforts to create a positive image in the community, and amongst the Brothers and Sisters in our Prince Hall Masonic Family.

Through D.D.G.M. Gerac's leadership, public perceptions of Prince Hall Masonry in Houston are on the right track. Hard work and dedication has created an environment where our communities believe in our vision.

Thank you D.D.G.M. Gerac and the Brothers and Sisters of District 15-A for a job well done!

Districts 18, 19 & 23 convene in Beeville

Story and photo by:
G.E. Burrell D. Parmer (1)

BEEVILLE, Texas – Prince Hall Masons comprising Districts 18, 19, and 23 of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas, traveled to the rural city of Beeville to attend a Joint District Meeting, Sept. 11.

The meeting was hosted by District Deputy Grand Master Rev. Norris D. Jackson of District 18 and attended by M.W. Grand Master Wilbert. M. Curtis.

"It's really good to have our Grand Master in our mist," said D.D.G.M. Jackson. "There are many activities occurring in Texas today, but we are here."

After the discussion of business, G.M. Curtis gave words of instruction.

"Study your ritual, it provides instruction. It is not your Bible; it points you to the Bible. Some say that Masonry is a religion, but it is not. We try to teach you moral values; the church teaches you how to get right with God," said G.M. Curtis.

Also in attendance was Honorary Past Grand Master William E. Woods, who once served as Deputy Grand Master and said that we are Masons and that we believe in what we do.

G.M. Curtis said that we are an organization of membership and reiterated that the three principal officers of each Lodge are representatives to the Grand Communications.

"We as leaders need to attend in order to be informed and to take



G.M. Curtis and Prince Hall Freemasons of Districts 18, 19 and 23 met in Beeville to hold a Joint District meeting, Sept. 11.

back information to our respective Lodges."

He also said that the leaders need to be very knowledgeable of the Grand Lodge Constitution and their local by-laws.

In November, the Grand Lodge will hold its Mid-Winter Session and G.M. Curtis said that it will be focused on the true meaning of Masonry.

G.M. Curtis also informed the members of the Prince Hall Masonic Family's 2nd Annual Christmas Toys Giveaway to be held at the Grand Temple on Dec. 18, and for each Master Mason attending the Mid-Winter Session to bring a toy for donation.

Later that evening, I. H. Clayborn Lodge No. 641 held a family banquet to celebrate its 15th Anniversary at the Jesse Defuse, Jr. Community Center.

The Lodge's theme was "Celebrating 15 years of service in the community of Beeville" and takes its name from the Grand Lodge's 16th Grand Master, Dr. Isadore H. Clayborn, who was featured in Ebony Magazine as one of 100 most influential Black Americans in 1989. He served as Grand

Master from 1965 – 1981 and as Sovereign Grand Commander, United Supreme Council, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, PHA Southern Jurisdiction from 1979 – 1994.

Although the Lodge does not possess a large amount of members, D.D.G.M. Jackson said that they are still conducting community service.

"We are few, but I don't believe that you need many to get things done. Just last week we delivered more than 100 school supplies to the local children."

The guest speaker for the event was G.M. Curtis.

"This banquet here tonight is a living vision of the leaders of District 18. I think it is a marvelous celebration, especially during Prince Hall Americanism Day Weekend."

"I know that a lot of thought, efforts and planning have gone into it from its inception to the present. My hat goes off to the leadership and membership for your hard work and I hope that this is just the beginning and that it continues to grow in District 18," said G.M. Curtis.

Prince Hall Masonic Family assists T.o.G.G.

Story and photos by:
G.E. Burrell D. Parmer (1)

SAN ANTONIO – Freemasons and Eastern Stars comprising seven Lodges and three Chapters donated over 40 new box fans to Testimonies of God's Greatness, Aug. 23.

The fans were gratefully received by Sister Angnet Norman of T.o.G.G., who said that the District, which comprises the Freemasons and Eastern Stars, has done so much for the community.

"The District is very important. When they come here, they always come with blessings," said Sis. Norman. "The people needed the fans because of the weather. All kinds of people showed up for the fans; some sick, some crippled and some were laid up in rooms with no circulation."

The donations of box fans is similar to the City of San Antonio Community Initiative's Project Cool, which is a collaborative initiative designed to alleviate health risks to seniors, 60 years and older, by providing them with a new box fan.

Sis. Norman said that T.o.G.G. serves all of San Antonio and that one only needs to contact them.

"Who's ever willing; they come from all over. It's not just for Blacks or Hispanics, but for anyone who has a need," said Sis. Norman. "I love what I do. This is what the Lord has laid upon my heart. I do what the Lord wants me to do."

All operating expenses of T.o.G.G. are paid by donations and the donations of food and clothing are essential.



Prince Hall Masonic Family of San Antonio pose with new box fans that were donated to Testimony of God's Greatness, Aug. 21.

"I like feeding the hungry and clothing the naked. We have been serving the community for over 30 years. We used to be able to go out into the community and deliver donations, but now we need those in need to come to the center," said Sis. Norman.

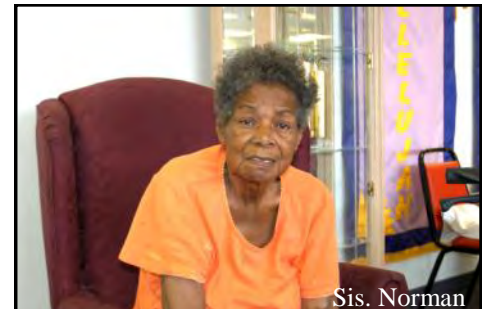
Every year, T.o.G.G. sponsors a picnic for the homeless at Comanche Park. The center charts buses (at the cost of \$800) to provide transportation to the park where the homeless are fed and given donations of clothing.

T.o.G.G. continues to host Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for the homeless at their headquarters located at 1815 W.W. White Ave.

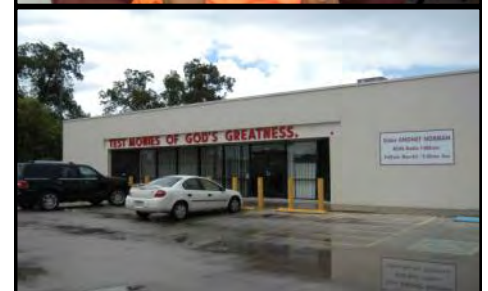
Sis. Norman hosts a daily radio show on KCHL 1480 AM from 9 – 9:30 a.m. and 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. on

Sundays.

The Prince Hall Masonic Family will continue to support T.o.G.G., which is a crucial element in helping the distressed.



Sis. Norman



District 19 enjoys first Latino Worshipful Master



P.M. James Polk, Senior Warden (Acting), W.M. Scott Rosario, and P.M. Darryl Hackworth, Junior Warden.

Story by:

P.M. Edward S. Jones (1)

SAN ANTONIO – Successful organizations have the ability to mirror the good in society, and District 19 is the recipient of a wonderful reflection of diversity. George Washington Carver Lodge No. 255 made history by electing its first Latino Worshipful Master, Bro. Scott A. Rosario.

Raised Nov. 10, 2006, W.M. Rosario has stood strong on his reasons for joining Prince Hall Masonry, the main being community service.

Some of his missions this Masonic year are providing families with Thanksgiving baskets, partnering up with the Children's Shelter to provide toys and coats for this winter, and guiding his Lodge in paying homage to Brethren who have passed by hosting a

potluck with their families.

His parents, both from Puerto Rico, welcomed W.M. Rosario to the family in November 1974. Born in Newburgh, New York, W. M. Rosario's family later moved to where he'd consider home, Tampa.

After graduating high school, he joined the U.S. Army. His eight years of service allowed him to visit the likes of Germany and Korea. It was within this timeframe that he decided to pursue Masonry.

This was a decision that would not only alter his life, but he hoped that it would also alter those in his family when he asserts, "I decided to become a Mason because it is a great legacy to leave my sons. I sincerely hope they follow in my footsteps."

It is this value towards family that assisted his seeking Masonry. Additionally, W.M. Rosario chose Masonry because he was looking

for an organization that could mirror the camaraderie he experienced while in the military.

Diversity is nothing new to W.M. Rosario; he addressed the topic of by sharing, "My Lodge is culturally diversified, while we are primarily African American, in addition to myself, we have a Brother that is half German and half Mexican. His name is Bro. Emmanuel Grotheer and serves as Junior Deacon, which further serves well considering we are in the midst of celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month."

This milestone set by the Craft of George Washington Carver Lodge No. 255 serves as a reminder that Prince Hall Masonry fully accepts all men regardless of race, creed or ethnicity, who are found qualified and well recommended.

San Antonio Lodge No. 1 Military Accomplishments

Story by:

G.E. Burrell D. Parmer (1)

SAN ANTONIO – It's not every day when two members of a Masonic Lodge, who share the same branch of military service, accomplish significant military achievements.

This was the case of Worshipful Master Nathaniel Tennyson Jr. and Tyler Juan Garza of San Antonio Lodge No. 1, District 19, The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and Jurisdiction, May 21 and June 17.

On May 21, Senior Master Sergeant Tennyson retired from the U.S. Air Force during an military ceremony held at the enlisted club on Randolph Air Force Base.

W.M. Tennyson, who served a quarter century in the Air Force, elaborated on his decision to retire.

"In my 25-year career I felt that I had accomplished everything that I wanted to do. I made an impact on the Air Force, been promoted to the upper echelon of the enlisted ranks, had the privilege of leading some of the best Airmen the military, and I finished my degree. Therefore, it seemed like a perfect opportunity to pass on the Air Force to some of those younger Airmen that I'd spent years mentoring."

In addition to passing the torch, it seemed like perfect timing to start a second career said W.M. Tennyson, who became a Master Mason in April 1998.

Asked why he enlisted into the Air Force, W.M. Tennyson replied.

"I had always wanted joined the Air Force. When I graduated from high school I didn't want to sit around idle trying to figure out what I wanted to be or do. I also wanted to take advantage of the education and traveling opportunities the Air



Lt. Col. Teresa Schwehm and Senior Master Sgt. Nathaniel Tennyson Jr. pose for a photo after Senior Master Sgt Tennyson was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal during his retirement ceremony held on Randolph Air Force Base, May 21.

Force had to offer and it was a luxury to get paid while doing so."

According to W.M. Tennyson, who is serving a second term as Master, being a senior non-commissioned officer and having the privilege of leading many Airmen thoroughly prepared him to lead as Worshipful Master of San Antonio Lodge No. 1.

W.M. Tennyson plans to continue to serve the Department of Defense as a government civilian and human resource manager.

On June 17, Staff Sergeant Garza was promoted to the rank of technical sergeant in a ceremony on Lackland AFB.

Tyl. Garza, who has been in the Air Force since August 1996, was last promoted in December 2001 and commented on his current service.

"I decided very early in my life, age 13 or 14, to follow in my father's and grandfather's footsteps

of joining the military. I also felt it was my duty to serve this country."

Tyl. Garza, who was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in July 2004, said that the Air Force has taught him to properly apply the 24-inch gauge to his life.



Tech. Sgt. Juan Garza poses with his wife, Julie, after being promoted to rank of technical sergeant on Lackland Air Force Base, June 17.

San Antonio Lodge No. 1 cleans up the Streets

Story by:

G.E. Burrell D. Parmer (1)

SAN ANTONIO — Joining in on the 25th Anniversary of the Adopt-a-Highway Program, Freemasons of San Antonio Lodge No. 1, The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and Jurisdiction, gathered at the corner of Interstate 410 and East Houston Street to trek two miles to assist in beautifying the roads of the Eastside, Oct. 9.

According to the Texas Adopt-a-Highway website, the Adopt-a-Highway Program started out as a pilot program in 1985 and has grown into a nationally-recognized program across the world and it was just 25 years ago when the first stretch of roadway was adopted in Texas.

"It is important for us to join in and help keep our Texas highways and roads clean," said Senior Warden David Grimes. "If we don't, we cannot complain when we see litter on our streets."

According to the program's website, Adopt-a-Highway volunteers keep the program going strong. The program currently has more than 4,500 groups across the state, which is a testament to the thousands of volunteers and their passion to keep Texas beautiful.

The Adopt-a-Highway Program gives citizens an opportunity to support the department's litter prevention programs by adopting a section of highway for the purpose of reducing litter on an adopted section through public participation.

Why adopt?

- It's a free, easy way for groups to help their communities, make a visible impact and earn some well-deserved Texas Pride.
- Texas is growing by leaps and bounds, and surging population



means more cars on our roadways and, unfortunately, more trash.

- Although nearly 90 percent of litter on Texas highways is removed by paid contractors — not by convicts as many folks assume — volunteer efforts reduce litter cleanup costs and save taxpayers money.
- Beauty is the reward. Your ounce of prevention enables the state to use more tax dollars on highway beautification rather than trash pickup.
- Motorists respond. Seeing volunteers at work resonates with would-be offenders. Research has shown that Adopt-a-Highway roadsides are generally less littered than those maintained by road crews.
- It gives us a jump-start. The number of groups adopting in recent years has reached a plateau of approximately 3,800 groups at a time when Texas has more miles of road and more drivers than ever. Your help is needed!

It all started in the Lone Star State.

"Did you know the first highway ever adopted was right here in Texas?"

One day back in 1984, James R. "Bobby" Evans, an engineer for the Texas Department of Transporta-

tion's (TxDOT) Tyler District, was driving through Tyler when he observed debris blowing out of the bed of the pickup truck he was following.

Alarmed by the incident and concerned that the cost of picking up litter was increasing at an annual rate of 15 to 20 percent; Evans began appealing to local groups to "adopt" a section of highway. His initial challenge went unanswered.

Champion for the cause

It wasn't long before Billy Black, Public Information Officer for TxDOT's Tyler District, became involved in developing the Adopt-a-Highway program. Black was responsible not only for creating a quarterly cleanup cycle for adopting organizations, but also for implementing the initial concept, which included furnishing volunteer safety training, reflective vests and equipment — and for erecting the well-known Adopt-a-Highway roadside signs that recognize adopters.

The Tyler Civitan Club soon became the first group to volunteer, adopting a two-mile stretch of Highway 69.

Additional information can be found at: www.dot.state.tx.us.

Working Together Works: District 23 Rebuilding while serving the Community

Story by:

S.W. Robert Lamkin III (494)

SAN MARCOS, Texas – Prince Hall Masons of District 23 are working within their community to not only offer service, but also to increase membership and retain current members.

Recently, the District created an initiative to save the only existing Prince Hall Lodge building located in Luling, Texas.

Reed Lodge No. 14, organized in 1883 and rebuilt in 1953, is one of the original 15 Lodges that began in the Prince Hall Masonic Jurisdiction of Texas. It is the oldest Lodge in District 23. Currently, the Pride of San Marcos Lodge No. 494 and Reed Lodge No. 14 utilize this facility for regular Lodge Communications.

On Oct. 2, a charity event was held to raise additional funds for repair and maintenance of the building, as well as monies to benefit William Taylor United Methodist Church, located in Luling.

District Deputy Grand Master Ralph Hubbard had this to say



D.D.G.M. Hubbard interviewed for a "Keeping it Real in the Hill Country" internet webcast.



Photo by: W.M. William Norris

D.D.G.M. Hubbard and Brethren of District 23 united.

about why it was decided to help the church.

"Our Masonic teaching tells us from the beginning that Masonry started in the church. Masons have always adopted/supported the church.

As Masons, we pledged to support our widows and orphans, so let us extend it to those who are in dire need of our aid and help," said D.D.G.M. Hubbard.

The event was a huge success due to the combined efforts and cooperation of Brothers from Reed Lodge No. 14, Hiram Lodge No. 24, Olive Leaf Lodge No. 319, and Pride of San Marcos Lodge No. 494.

"This, my Brothers, teaches us that unity is the key to providing the most for the greater good. The ten-

ets of Freemasonry are simple ethical principles that are acceptable to all good men. We must live by our bonds of Brotherly Love and Affection and judge ourselves as well as our fellow men by merit and not by religious or political differences. Do thy duty that is best....," said D.D.G.M. Hubbard.

"Our purpose is service, which is rendered to the people within our respective communities to improve their, social, cultural, and economic conditions. It's measure is giving, an act of unselfish sacrifice for the benefit of others."

Other projects planned by the District include: Boys and Girls Club Mentorship, My Brother's Keeper/Giving to Those in Need, Bi-monthly Social Skills Day, and the annual Juneteenth Banquet.

Pride of Killeen assists Elderly at Nursing Home



Left to right. S.W. John Maloney Jr., Entered Apprentices Deshaun Esannason and Luis Nunez, Bro. Alfred Campos, P.M. Johnny Perez, Bro. Kevin Sullivan, EA Danridge Henry, EA Montell Garrett, and W.M. Willie E. Keller Jr.

*Story and Photo by:
P.M. Kenneth Jones, Sec. (620)*

HARKER HEIGHTS, Texas – To assist the elderly, Prince Hall Masons of Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 visited Indian Oaks Nursing Home, Sept. 26.

The Lodge, which visits the home every third or fourth Sunday, arrived in the afternoon before dinner and assisted the residents in playing bingo.

The Brethren assisted all residents who wished to participate by preparing their bingo cards and

ensuring they get help covering their numbers.

The Lodge calls out the numbers and cheer the residents on with the winners being awarded candy or chocolate.

The residents really appreciated the volunteerism of the Brethren; they demonstrated their gratitude by huge smiles.

Not only did the Brethren participate, also a class of potential Prince Hall Masons attended as while. Additionally, the leadership of the Lodge was also present, leading by example.

It was an honor for one of the Brothers to call out the bingo numbers for the first time. This is enjoyed by many members of the Craft.

Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 enjoyed themselves though fellowship and in providing community service.

Brethren, KOP help Clean Up Historic Cemetery

*Story by:
S.W. David Featherston (290)*

AUSTIN – Brethren of Lyons Jr. Lodge No. 290 and members of Martin Luther King Jr. Council No. 5, Order of the Knights of Pythagoras assisted in the clean up of the Burditt Prairie Cemetery, July 17.

The cemetery was founded in the 1800's when a slave owner deeded it to his slaves so they would have a respectful burial place.

During post slavery, a small group continued the operation by selling plots well into the late 1970's.

The clean-up is a first step in restoration.

E. Lawrence Hardin, a representative of the cemetery said, "We are very excited about your interest and consideration of restoration, beautification and maintenance of BPC as a project for your mentoring group."

Hardin added that it will not only improve looks and accessibility, it will also allow surveying and mapping work to begin.

The process has also begun to catalog all of the markers and work with the historic commission and historic cemetery organizations to access technology and information.

The cemetery fell into a state of disrepair in the mid 1980's. It is the final resting place of veterans from WWI, community leaders, and

clergy.

The most recent was Elder Odessa Galloway, founder of New Hope Primitive Baptist Church and the El Bethel Primitive Baptist Association of Churches.



P.M. Alfred Dozier and Bro. Donald Brooks pose with other volunteers after the clean up.

District 26-A | D.D.G.M. Odis Atkinson

Districts 26-A, 26 O.E.S. work Together for the Betterment of Mankind

Story by:

D.D.G.M. Odis D. Atkinson (640)

D.D.G.M. Tefferra M. Atkinson (60)

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – Brothers and Sisters of District 26-A and District 26 Order of the Eastern Star recently adopted a German Deutscher Kinderschutzbund (youth center), Aug. 28.

The center was established in 1978 and is committed to the concerns of social handicapped children, youth, and their families.

The center assists under privileged kids in many ways. It offers aid to them and their families by providing food, clothing and mentorship. Each child receives two meals a day, in some cases this is the only food provided to them and mentors assist the children with their school work, life and social skills.

The center, a non-profit organization, depends on donations and is operated solely by volunteers. There are approximately 20 children who are assisted by the center.

The Prince Hall Freemasons and Eastern Stars, spearheaded by their District Deputies, Brother Odis D. Atkinson of District 26-A and Sister Tefferra M. Atkinson of District 26 have committed to this center.

Both Districts have already provided a monetary donation, as well as clothes, books, and food. They are on schedule to provide the children with contributions as often as needed to ensure that the children are supplied with the things that are taken for granted by most.



Photo by: Dakwon Atkinson

Districts 26-A and 26 (OES) provide donations to a youth center In Kaiserslautern, Germany, Aug. 28.

According to District Deputy Grand Master Atkinson, this program embodies everything that the Brothers and Sisters should be doing to up-lift our communities, and to provide such service as a Prince Hall Masonic Family is icing on the cake.

"We should always seek out opportunities to provide to those who are in need of the things that are taken for granted. We have a tendency to look at things in a different light once we are without.

Things such as food, clothing, books, and toys are possessions that these kids are lacking. It is our goal to provide them with as much as possible. The reward for me is the smiles that I see on their (kids) faces when we walk into the room," said D.D.G.M. Odis Atkinson.

According to District Deputy Grand Matron Tefferra Atkinson, OES are in support and on-board as well.

"The Sisters of District 26 will share all of the talents that we have to offer. Anything that we can do to impact the lives of others in situations where they think there is no hope...should be the goal of everyone in our organization," said D.D.G.M. Tefferra Atkinson.

"This is a chance of a lifetime and to pass this opportunity up, would be totally selfish. When I look back on this, I want to have the satisfaction of knowing that we brought pleasure into someone's life, and provided for them something that they could not provide for themselves."

FORUM

Building Bridges with our Prince Hall Brethren



Story by:
P.M. Thomas Shelton (148)
Grand Lodge of Texas,
A.F. & A.M.

As Masons, one of our primary objectives is to shine the light of knowledge into the darkness of ignorance. One such dark area that shows itself over and over amongst our Brethren across the state is our ignorance of the history and regularity of our worthy Brothers laboring under The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. of Texas.

In August of 1875, representatives of five "Negro Lodges" operating in Texas under the Grand Lodge of Kansas, F. & A.M. met to form what is now known as The M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas.

On Aug. 20 of that year, Brother Norris Wright Cuney was elected its first Grand Master. The Grand Lodge then grew steadily from those five original Lodges in Southeast Texas to encompass the state.

On Oct. 14, 1989, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, A.F. & A.M. and the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Connecticut began to recognize each other as legitimate Masonic bodies and permitted inter-visitation. This set off a chain reaction across the country.

In 2007, both Grand Masters from the Grand Lodge of Texas and The M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas came together and signed a Compact declaring that both Grand Lodges have shared territorial jurisdiction since 1875, and declared each other regular and Masonic, unfortunately however, we do not yet have visitation or Masonic communication, as they do in many other states.

There seems to be much confusion in and about the Temple on our part concerning this Compact and its implications. We have a difficult time locating it, whereas it is shown visibly on the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas' website, along with pictures of it being signed.

I have asked numerous times for clarification of what "Masonic Communication" means, and have yet to receive satisfactory or even consistent answers.

For those of us of the younger generations, our biggest question is why we are one of the remaining few states without visitation? With the territorial dispute put to rest with the signing of the Compact, it leaves few other reasons. That is another question you are guaranteed to get inconsistent answers to.

I've asked this question numerous times to many people. Answers range from we didn't want it, they didn't want it, the time isn't right, etc. I having been born after the "separate but equal" days, much of this is beyond my scope of comprehension.

A phrase that should speak to the hearts of all worthy Brothers says this: "Behold, how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity..." My Brothers, the key word here is together. Not separate. TOGETHER. Why is this such a cloudy issue? Why are answers so hard to find? With one of our principle tenets being Truth, why do we hide from it?

So, again I ask what is "Masonic Communication?" My interpretation relies on common sense and conscience. We obviously can't sit in a tiled function together at this point, but we can do things open to the public. We can attend public fundraisers, Lodge functions opened to the public, etc. I would recommend we take advantage of these opportunities we have.

Today we can set the example for what will become tomorrow's standard. Brotherly Love knows no boundaries except for those we create. Let's do the right thing and stop letting a repressive history get in the way of creating a progressive future.



M.W. Donnie W. Broughton of the Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M. and M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis of The M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas sign a Compact to share territorial rights in the state of Texas in 2007.

Membership - What are you going to do about it?

Story by:

G.L.A. Willie High Coleman Jr. (646)



FT. WORTH — M.W. Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis in his most recent allocution encouraged the membership to take steps to increase our membership.

R.W. Deputy Grand Master Michael Anderson and I in our stewardship reports identified membership levels as a critical issue for the Grand Lodge. You may have thought that "something needs to be done about our membership levels", but what have you done about it?

Prince Hall Masonry is in its 135th year of existence in Texas. Starting from the original five Lodges, which met in Brenham in 1875, to our current 156 Lodges today, our membership has moved from those small number of original members to reported peak membership levels of 32,000 during the 1960's and 1970's to our current level of approximately 3,000 good men. Our current membership level has been consistent for the last four or five years with no indication that there is going to be any changes in the near future. Continuing to do the same thing and expecting a different result is defined by some as insanity.

Membership is important because it affects our history and reputation, our ability to spread Charity (the more members we have the more Charity we can spread) and enhance our budget and finances.

Why has the membership numbers decreased and failed to increase? Is Prince Hall Masonry still relevant in today's society? Is it because the times have changed and people are no longer interested in what we do? Is it because people don't know or understand who we are? Is it because we are apathetic and just don't care? Is it because we do not see our membership

levels as a problem? Is it because we lack a plan to increase the membership? Is our approach to membership flawed? Is it because we lack the effort and have not tried to increase the membership? All of these are valid questions and depending on who you ask, you may get different answers, but regardless of who is asking or who is answering, membership is a challenge that we must face.

What is the requirement for membership? Obviously we are a **male** organization and slavery having been abolished, qualified **free born** men are **free** to join our organization. So a question that can be asked is "are there any **well recommended** men available to become our members? Well recommended? What does that mean? I believe that it means that Brothers who are members will talk to people that they know or come into contact with about becoming members and recommend them for membership in the Craft. Do you know any men that you can "recommend" to membership in our organization? But we can't do that can we? What about **2B1 ASK1**? I'm glad you asked.

What is the origin of 2B1 ASK1? Is it in the Landmarks? (No) Is it in the rituals? (No) Is it in the Constitution? (No) 2B1 ASK1 is a catchy phrase that has grown into a tradition and may have been an appropriate attitude and position to take when we had 32,000 members, but is it appropriate when our numbers have fallen so far? I don't think so. I had the privilege to attend the Conference of Grand Masters' Conference (PHA) in Boston this year and while there I observed a television commercial and saw billboards seeking members for Masonry (non-Prince Hall). Within a two-month period of time, it is reported that there were 35,000 responses to a telephone bank set up to field responses to the advertisements and 5,000 new

members were added to the roles. I AM NOT RECOMMENDING THAT WE FOLLOW THAT APPROACH!

Then what should we do? Our options concerning membership increases and retention are: (1) Continue to do the same thing and expect a different result (insanity) and (2) Change our approach.

I suggest that we start a new tradition which follows the well recommended implication that our ritual suggests. I recommend that you go get a member or two, three, four or five. You have relatives, friends, church members, college fraternity brothers, barbers, plumbers, doctors, lawyers, postal workers, television repairmen, engineers, laborers, truck drivers, etc., who are good men and who would be good Masons if they knew who we were and if you asked them. Prince Hall Masonry is a relevant, worthwhile organization that can make good men better and be made better by the addition of more good men.

I know that this is a radical change in philosophy and some will just blow this article off and ignore it and continue to do the same thing.

My intent is to offer a different approach and to at least start a discussion about the critical issue of membership growth and retention. I invite you to email me about your thoughts whcolemanjr@sbcglobal.net, call me, talk to someone else about this idea, try it and see what happens. If each one of our 3,000 members would recommend and see initiated one new member each year for the next three years, next year we would have 6,000 members and the second year we would have 12,000 members and the third year we would have 24,000 members. We cannot rely on anyone else to grow our membership we must do this ourselves. It is up to us. So...What will YOU do about it?

Growing a Lodge: A Past Master's Perspective



Story By:

P.M. Frederic Milliken (135)

There are two sides to the coin in maintaining viable numbers for a Masonic Lodge. One side of the coin is membership and the other side is retention. Paying due attention to both sides of the coin will deliver the highest yield.

MEMBERSHIP

Ask yourself what would induce you to join an organization. It must have something that you want, be able to do something for you that you find useful, necessary or uplifting. Most of us will look at the organization's mission or mission statement trying to ascertain its ideals and purpose.

Fraternal organizations, like Freemasonry, are in a unique category. The benefit accrued to the individual member is camaraderie, giving back to society and the pursuit of knowledge in the context of morality. In Freemasonry these three aspects are more often labeled brotherly love, relief and truth.

When you analyze Freemasonry there is nothing wrong with its message. Perfected over hundreds of years it offers to the uninitiated the loftiest of goals, tried and true through many years of practice. While not for everybody, Freemasonry offers to those who are looking to put meaning and purpose into their lives along with tight male bonding, the perfect avenue for the expression of these desires.

Today's society in all its complexity and with all the competition of other groups, organizations, societies, and interests that can be pursued in front of a screen without ever leaving the house, still has a niche for those men who want to give up superficial libertine pursuits

for something with some substance and purpose. These men are often referred to as "searchers" or "seekers" and it is these men that Freemasonry needs to target.

While many may point to community action and societal charity as the best way for Freemasonry to attract the attention of those men of character who would make good Freemasons, empirical evidence, especially on the Mainstream side, refutes that position. While charity is one of the basic tenets of Freemasonry, it is not all of Freemasonry and most men who are looking to join just a charity will gravitate elsewhere, perhaps to the likes of the Lions Club, just as those who only wish camaraderie and nothing else will choose something like the Elks. Besides which, using charity as a means to market Freemasonry is a corruption of its ideals.

"Seekers" are those who are looking for just a little bit more or maybe even a lot more. They want the "whole enchilada," a complete package that allows them to receive as well as give. They are looking for a reason for being here and then a way to express that reason, right here, right now on earth.

Seekers are discovered in casual conversation, so it pays to talk about your Lodge and all it does, which is not direct solicitation. Whether it is at church, the workplace or the play place, once you open your mouth with something worthwhile to say, seekers will seek you out. All this goes to prove that there is no substitute for one on one. Advertising and marketing Freemasonry doesn't get you members, especially quality members. But a heart to heart talk can do wonders. When you touch somebody else's soul you have made a Brother for life.

Targeting the right prospects is the first step in making a Lodge grow. But even with doing this right we may face huge stumbling blocks in the path to keeping those we have admitted. This gets us into the issue of retention.

RETENTION

If our message is so good why are we having such a hard time of it? A good message does not implement itself. Perhaps the fault lies with our execution. Perhaps we are not delivering on what we have promised. When the seeker, the new candidate, sees that the ideals and virtues of Freemasonry are just paid lip service, he is out the door and gone forever.

Putting on bad, sloppy degrees is a turnoff and the best way I know of to lose a new Brother very quickly. If we take no pride in what we do then disaster awaits us. Pride begets enthusiasm which begets members who not only want to stick around but who can't wait to tell the world what a great organization they belong to.

Failure to mentor new arrivals is a common mistake of some Lodges. Teaching and instruction are important so that the candidate understands what he is being given. Leaving a Brother going through the degrees to flounder around and try to "get it" all by himself is not only counterproductive, it is un-Masonic. It is also a good idea for Lodges to have study sessions in between degrees for their candidates for the same reason. It is important for a Lodge to create an atmosphere that says that this is family. Families stick together and look out for each other.

Just as it is important in the life of a Christian church to hold Bible study for its community it is also important that a Masonic Lodge invest in continuing education for

its members. A fully informed Freemason is one who understands the virtues and merits of his fraternity and because of that knowledge again takes pride in that to which he belongs, greeting the profane with enthusiasm. That will enhance his ability to explain his fraternity to those who do not have a good understanding of it and those who would make good future Freemasons. And that knowledge will bind him to the Lodge for a long term commitment.

The biggest mistake most Lodges make is to run hours and hours of business meetings. Devoting all that time to planning, finances, reports and assignments makes for sheer boredom. Soon

many Brothers are making excuses why they can't come to Lodge. With all that Freemasonry has to offer we all need to teach it, live it and express it together as a community.

This means coming up with interesting programs that combine bonding, charity and living Freemasonry. BBQs and picnics, Christmas and Thanksgiving community help programs, awards dinners, outdoor degrees, visitations to other Lodges are but a few suggestions. The purpose here is not to make a laundry list of all things a Lodge should do but rather head it in the right direction.

One of the most productive enterprises that a Lodge can un-

dertake is what is often referred to as "casual bonding." There is more Masonry discussed and taught after the Lodge closes over a beer and pizza than there is in the strict formality of the tyled Communication. When Lodge members really get to know each other they create family.

The keyword that runs throughout all this is **excellence**. The passwords to Lodge growth are to **execute with excellence**.

Remember Freemasonry is special. Freemasonry is a way of life. Creating an ever larger family, initiating men into a new way of life is a reward beyond measure. If you build it they will come.

A Review of Prince Hall Freemasonry in the Lone Star State

Story By:
P.M. Frederic L. Milliken (135)

Rev. Bro. Dr. Robert L. Uzzel has penned a very comprehensive look into Texas Prince Hall Masonry from its inception into the 21st Century as well as a look into society, politics, and some of the events that shaped the history of the Lone Star State.

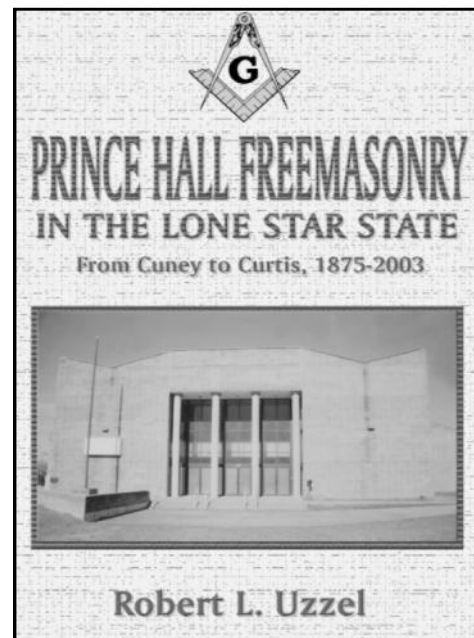
After a minimal setting of the stage he tells the story of Texas Prince Hall Masonry through the eyes of each Grand Master and those who surrounded them. We get a look at what each Grand Master said at Grand Sessions, the programs they originated and implemented, the successes they had and the failures that also dogged their tenure.

Bro. Uzzel pulls no punches. He tells all about both the good stuff and the bad stuff. We learn about the Grand Master who was an influential politician, the Grand Master who started as a contractor

and bridge builder but later became a state representative., the three Grand Masters who were also church Bishops, the Grand Master who served 20 years in the Grand East, the Grand Master whose house burned down, the Grand Master who spoke of Masons as pathfinders and who banned Duncan's ritual, the Grand Master whose wife was as prominent in Masonic circles as he was, the Grand Master who was a public school principal and who erected a monument at Brenham, Texas commemorating the formation of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master whose tenure saw the failure of the Grand Lodge's Bank & Trust Company, the Grand Master who was also Sovereign Grand Commander, Scottish Rite, South Jurisdiction and who visited Liberia, the Grand Master who was tried for un-Masonic conduct, the Grand Master who was a District Court judge and the Grand Master who had a

protracted legal battle with the Order of Eastern Star.

The first Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons of Texas was the Honorable Norris Wright Cuney who was installed as such in Brenham, Texas on Aug. 19, 1875 by Capt. William D. Matthews, Grand



Master of the National Grand Lodge. Twenty more Grand Masters followed to this date.

The present Grand Master, the Honorable Wilbert M. Curtis was installed in 2003 and is enjoying his seventh year in the Grand East.

Along the way many a Grand Master has made many an inspiring address to his Grand Lodge, all readable in Bro. Uzzel's masterpiece. One of the best was this portion of the fourth Grand Master's address, by the Honorable Abram Grant, to the Seventh Annual Communication on June 7, 1882.

"Assembled in these consecrated walls for the discharge of the important duties entrusted to our supervision, in the full enjoyment of peace, there is every reason for the expression of profound gratitude to the Almighty God, that, despite our frailties and shortcomings, His tender care has been ever manifest, and for humble aspiration that the present session and proceedings may be so conducted that not only shall they profit our venerable craft but also redound to the greater glory of our Heavenly Father, to whose name we ascribe all honor and praise. You have come here to

declare your appreciation of the character and the objects of Freemasonry; to record your homage for its founders, and admiration of its splendid charities, and dedicate yourselves to the permanence and perpetuation of its principles. And we would leave here also for the generations which are soon to fill our places some proof that we endeavored to transmit the great inheritance unimpaired; that in our estimate of its principles, in our veneration of its charities, in our devotion to its morality, in our regard for whatever improves human happiness, we are not altogether unworthy of the high trust confided in us. Other places and other occasions you reserve for strife and dispute, and struggle for mastery and the sharp competitions of life. But here shall be peace and reconciliation. Within these walls, the knowledge and the morality, which are of no creed and no party, which are graceful and profitable for all alike, which are true and real to every mind and to every conscience, and in every brain and heart – these itself – these alone are inculcated here. Happy, especially, if we shall rouse ourselves to

their utmost capacity – if we shall feel that we are summoned by a new notice and by an obligation unfelt before, to an unaccustomed effort to appropriate to our hearts and reason all the countless good which is hidden in the principles and teachings of Freemasonry."

Bro. Uzzel tells us in the concluding epilogue that, "The lives of the twenty-one Grand Masters who have presided over the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas in the past 125 years have influenced and been influenced by many important historical events. Thus it is impossible to totally separate Masonic history from other aspects of history. Much interesting information can be gleaned by examining the lives of these twenty-one men."

And if you pick up and read "Prince Hall Freemasonry In The Lone Star State" you shall have a very unique and well assembled insight into the times, the lives and the history of the late nineteenth and all of the twentieth century written from the point of view of the struggle of Black Masonry to surmount and survive all the obstacles put in its path. I recommend this book most highly.

**To purchase a book, print and complete the below form, then mail with payment to:
Grand Secretary, P.O. Box 1478, Fort Worth, Texas 76101-1478**

"Prince Hall Freemasonry In The Lone Star State"

Mail to: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Quantity: _____ @ \$33.00 per Paperback book = Total Cost: _____
Cost includes shipping and handling

HISTORICAL CORNER

Prince Hall Masons, Austin's Colony



Story by:
G.J.W. Frank Jackson (85)
Grand Historian

(Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part series)

When Stephen F. Austin took up the Spanish Land Grant given to his father,

Moses Austin, he travelled to Mexico to lobby the government to allow him to bring African slaves into the colony. Austin told the Mexican Government that he needed the African slaves to "Wrestle the bounty from the earth and make Texas a productive enterprise." Waller County is a significant part of Austin's Colony and the story of the eventual rise of the children of these former slaves in the halls of political and economic power is due largely to the leadership and organizational skills of Prince Hall Masons. Prairie View A&M University, built on the ruins of the old Alta Vista Plantation, is the first state-supported Historically Black University and stands as a testament to the legacy of some of these Prince Hall Masons greatest work.

Waller County was named in honor of Edwin Waller (a plantation owner) and was created in 1873 by redrawing the boundary lines of Grimes and Austin Counties in part "as an adjustment to the changed condition of that Black majority which followed the rebellion."

"Edwin Waller was a co-signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, and was appointed by Mirabeau B. Lamar, President of the newly formed Republic of Texas, to select the site for a permanent location of the seat of government. The present site of Austin, the state capital, was his choice."

Waller was a member of the Texas House of Representatives, the first Mayor of Austin and was the first to sign the Articles of Secession from the Union. When the Board of Directors of the A&M College tasked Commissioners J.H. Raymond, Dr. Ashbel Smith and

J.D. Giddings, to select and purchase the site for the A&M College for Colored Youth, they made their way to Waller County and the plantation owned by the cousin of Waller. The Commissioners spent \$15,787.67 in purchasing the land and buildings and for making the necessary repairs to the old Kirby Plantation known as "Alta Vista", located five miles east of the town of Hempstead. The newly purchased physical plant, of the A&M College for Colored Youth, was left under the management and care of Waller, until it was officially turned over to the head of the college. Waller was the nephew of Jared Ellison Groce.

The land in and around the City of Prairie View was formerly the Alta Vista slave plantation, owned by Col. Jared E. Kirby, who was the great nephew of Groce. Groce was one of the original 300 settlers that came into Texas with Stephen F. Austin.

As part of the incentive given to the Old Three Hundred Settlers for migrating and settling in Texas, Austin was to grant an additional 80 acres (by some accounts 100 acres) of land for each Negro slave brought in with them. Austin and Baron de Bastrop had lobbied the Mexican Government for over a year to allow African slavery in Texas. Austin's rationale was "that he needed the Negro slave to wrestle the bounty from the earth and make Texas a productive enterprise." He was of course successful. The institutionalization of this policy accords to Austin the dubious distinction of being one of the fathers of slavery in Texas.

Groce, clearly one of the largest planters to move into Texas is credited with introducing the large slave plantation system of farming

into the state. "Due to the large number of slaves in his company, Groce received ten sitios (over 44,000 acres), by far the largest grant in Austin's colony. This was half of what he was entitled to under the regulations of Austin's first colonial grant, which allowed 640 acres to each man, and an additional 80 for each slave." Groce was entitled to receive over 8,800 acres as a bonus for bringing in 110 African slaves. "This was a clear example of Affirmative Action" and is a clear demonstration of the power of the ideas at the foundation of the Slave Plantation Culture.

Groce is also known for institutionalizing slavery in Texas. Many of the early African slaves brought into Texas were young adults and children. The effective British naval blockade off the west coast of Africa, severely restricted slave exportation, the American slavers had to purchase additional African slaves from the other southern markets or from smugglers like Jim Bowie and his brother. The life expectancy of field slaves was extremely short.

Groce's son, Leonard Waller Groce, owned the magnificent "Liendo Plantation." The home, built in 1853, at the bend of Fish Pond Creek, is about 2 miles west of Prairie View. "Leonard Groce purchased additional tracts and by 1849 he had acquired a great deal of land, including the 1833 five-league (22,000 acres) grant of Jose Justo Liendo adjoining Groce's 1824 grant along the east boundary. In December 1829, long before Liendo applied for title to this land, Lewis B. Jones, one of three free Blacks accepted by Empresario Austin as colonists, applied for half a league on Fish

Pond Creek adjoining Groce's along the east boundary, but his title to this land was never recognized (Dr. Lee Smith's letter of March 1, 1996)." Liendo was often visited by Sam Houston (whom Jared Ellison Groce encouraged to move to Texas) on many occasions and it served as a campsite for Confederate officers during the Civil War. It was also the place where Gen. George Armstrong Custer, then attached to the Union Army's occupation forces in Texas, under the command of Gen. Phillip M. Sheridan, announced the tenets of the Emancipation Proclamation and ensured that slavery officially ended in Waller County. Furthermore it served as the headquarters for the Freedman's Bureau. "General Gordon Granger had arrived at Galveston on June 19, 1865 and read General Order No. 3, declaring that by proclamation of the President all slaves were free. For the most part, the planters did not; however, free their slaves, but kept them on the plantation to await federal action. Custer brought that federal action to Waller County on August 26, 1865."

Col. Kirby, a wealthy planter, "owned 10,000 acres in Waller County, including 720 acres from the 1831 half-league grant to Samuel H. Hardin. Hardin came to Texas in 1822 and was one of two free Blacks in Austin's colony who actually received title to his land." "Jared Ellison Kirby was Jared Ellison Groce's great-nephew, the grandson of Groce's sister, Lucy Groce. Kirby, Born in Georgia in 1820, married Helen Marr Swaengen of Mobile, Ala. in 1858, and built "Alta Vista" on the rolling prairie adjoining "Liendo", east of Hempstead." "Alta Vista was one of four plantations and several small farms owned by the Kirby's in the vicinity of Best and Iron Creeks, and at one time claimed a population of 400 slaves.

Kirby was a colonel in the Confederate Army, and his home was Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith's headquarters during the later phases of the Civil War." (The Handbook of Texas Online)

When the Commissioners hired by the Board of the A&M College were looking for a site to locate the state's first Colored College, they found their way to Alta Vista. "The Alta Vista Plantation basically satisfied the Commission's aim to secure a location in a "Colored District" within a convenient distance of the other A&M College at Bryan, as the same Board was to supervise and control both Colleges."

"On Oct. 18, 1877, the State of Texas took title to 1,388 contiguous acres from the Jesse Clary (Abstract. 111), Solomon Smith (Abst. 253) and John Laws (Abst. 216) surveys in Waller County, then known as Alta Vista." As the property was vacant and badly in need of repair, Col. Ashbel Smith retained Judge Edwin Waller to oversee the property for the generous sum of \$100 per month.

"Instead of erecting suitable school buildings as required by the statute and as had been done at the college at Bryan, the Commissioners chose to convert the old Kirby Mansion, consisting of twelve rooms, into what was to be known for the next fifty years as "Kirby Hall." On Jan. 21, 1878, the Commissioners submitted their final report and turned the affairs of the College over to the Board of Directors of the Agricultural College of Texas." (Dr. Lee Smith's letter of March 1, 1996).

The Alta Vista Plantation was at one time the (prison) home to over 150 African slaves. Local oral history indicates that during the time when Gen. E. Kirby Smith maintained his headquarters at Alta Vista (Prairie View), the final offensive plans of the Confederate Army in Texas were drafted but were abandoned when news of the cap-

ture of President Jefferson Davis was received. The Alta Vista slave plantation was not a good place. To compound the harsh realities of slavery, Col. J. E. Kirby was cruel and mistreated the African slaves. While many slaves stayed around the plantations and hired on to work for their former masters, the Kirby slaves left as soon as they got the word that they were free.

Its brutal reputation caused many local African American leaders to vehemently object to the name being attached to the states first college for their people. After the first year of operation, the name Prairie View was substituted for Alta Vista.

"In 1857 the Houston & Texas Central Railroad was operating to Cypress City, a point 25 miles out of Houston" and about 20 miles east of Prairie View. Dr. R.R. Peebles (who married the widow of Jared E. Groce III and was later imprisoned for voicing his opposition to the Civil War) and James W. McDade (both men acquired wealth, power and prestige from the system of slavery) on Dec. 29, 1857 entered into an agreement to form the town of Hempstead. They provided incentives for the railroad company to extend the lines to Hempstead and in 1858 the lines of the H&TC Rail Road passed through what would one day become the City of Prairie View, and on July 1, 1858 a major celebration which included the governor and other state and private railroad officials marked the arrival of the first train at its destination of Hempstead. In 1859 the railroad arrived in Navasota and terminated in Millican until after the Civil War. McDade and Peebles lead the enterprise to connect the railroad to Washington County, and the train was servicing Brenham by April 10, 1861." (A History of Waller County, pg. 507)

SPOTLIGHT

On Jan. 6, 2009 U.S. Representative Al Green took the oath of office to serve the people of Texas' 9th Congressional District and began his third term in the U.S. House of Representatives. As a veteran civil rights advocate, he has dedicated his life to fighting for those in society whose voices, too often, are not heard.

Congressman Green's chief legislative priority for the 111th Congress is creating a Federal Living Wage. As the Democratic Whip for Region 6 and member of the Committee on Homeland Security, Congressman Green is dedicated to increasing U.S. port and border security and reducing chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats. He also serves on the Financial Services Committee where he continues his fight to eliminate insurance, housing and lender practices that have historically victimized low and moderate income communities.

Additionally, Congressman Green remains committed to increasing the levels affordable housing and ensuring that every American realizes the dream of homeownership.

Born in New Orleans, Bro. Green's parents taught him the importance of education and instilled in him the drive and determination to succeed. After attending Florida A&M University in 1971, he went on to attend Tuskegee Institute of Technology.

In 1974, Bro. Green earned his law degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University, where he later served as an instructor. As a student, he earned awards in the areas of Federal Procedure and Conflicts.

After graduating from law school, Bro. Green co-founded and co-



*Bro. Al Green
Congressman, Representing the
9th Congressional District of
Houston, Texas*

managed the law firm of Green, Wilson, Dewberry and Fitch. In 1977, he was elected Justice of the Peace, Precinct 7, Position 2, where he served for 26 years before retiring in 2004. Throughout his career, Bro. Green has earned the respect of his colleagues and a wide cross-section of community leaders who have praised his legal skills, impeccable character and innate ability to communicate skillfully with people of diverse backgrounds.

For nearly ten years, Bro. Green served as President of the Houston Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Under his leadership, the organization grew to unprecedented heights, increasing membership from 500 to 3,500 and the staff from one to twenty. Bro. Green would become known as an unwavering defender of equality and a champion of all people. During his tenure, he oversaw the

purchase and renovation of a building to serve as the NAACP's home. In an effort to ensure that all Houstonians share in its growing economy, Bro. Green created the Houston Fair Share Program, which encourages corporations to join with minority firms in joint ventures and to hire minority vendors. He also co-founded the Black and Brown Coalition with Judge Armando Rodriguez. This organization brings together Houston's African American and Hispanic communities to work on issues of common interest.

As a testament to his exceptional service to the community, and in recognition of his outstanding professional achievement and superior leadership ability, Bro. Green has received numerous awards. These awards include: Texas Black Democrats' Profiles of Courage Award, 2007, the AFL-CIO MLK Drum Major Award for Service, 2007; Ebony Magazine's 100 Most Influential Black People, 2006; and the NAACP Fort Bend Branch Mickey Leland Humanitarian Award, 2006. Bro. Green was honored for his outstanding accomplishments by the City of Houston with "Al Green Day." Mayor Bob Lanier cited him as a "vigorous spokesman for fairness, justice and equality for all," and cited his "distinguished reputation for his ability to bring together people of different ethnic, political and social lives."

Bro. Green was recently coronated a Sovereign Grand Inspector General in the United Supreme Council, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Southern Jurisdiction. He is a member of Ever-Ready Lodge No. 506 located in Rosenberg, Texas.

Royal Arch Masons hold Workshop, announce Location of Next York Rite Weekend

Story and photo by:
Comp. Burrell Parmer (16)

SAN ANTONIO — Royal Arch Masons of the Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons of Texas gathered together at the order of Most Excellent Grand High Priest Willie J. Tate to attend a workshop held here, Aug. 28.

The one-day workshop, held at the Clarion Inn and Suites, provided G.H.P. Tate a forum to inform Officers and Companions regarding the 2011 York Rite Weekend, scholarship programs, and other relevant subjects.

G.H.P. Tate gave a very informative and astounding discourse on the “past words” of the four degrees belonging to York Rite Masonry.

“When we talk about Royal Arch Masonry, we talk about good works,” said G.H.P. Tate during his lecture. “There are a lot of materials available to you all to do your own research.”

G.H.P. Tate then briefly talked about Zerubbabel Day and the importance for Royal Arch Masons to observe it.

“Celebrate Zerubbabel Day at a church in your local community; High Priests, even if you have to attend by yourself.”

He also required that each Chapter donate a book to a local library and to host a social event and donate all proceeds to a youth group.

G.H.P. Willie J. Tate

Information of the



Grand Chapter Scholarship Program was delivered.

“The previous year, the Grand Chapter awarded six scholarships,” said G.H.P. Tate. “The annual King Contest is the primary source of income that provides funds for scholarships.”

According to the Grand King Scholarship Chairman, Norman Thomas, the scholarship packets will be mailed to each chapter in November.

“Every little bit assists these students and we would like to receive a minimum of two applications from each Chapter. We want to pick from the best Texas has to offer,” said P.H.P. Thomas.

“We are men of distinction, we must not only talk the talk but also walk the walk,” said G.H.P. Tate.

G.H.P. Tate then tasked each Excellent High Priest to establish mentorship programs at schools within each of their Chapters’ communities.

The agenda then turned towards recruiting but more on retention.

“We are not communicating with

our members,” said G.H.P. Tate. “I want each E.H.P. to form a committee to reengage with past members. When we start forgiving, we’ll start profiting.”

“We have many members. Our elderly members are especially important to us. Please, check on them regularly,” said G.H.P. Tate.

The workshop which began at 8 a.m. ended at 3 p.m.

According to E.H.P. William H. Paige of Shiloh Royal Arch Chapter No. 16, the workshop was very productive and beneficial.

The 2011 York Rite Weekend will be held at the Omni San Antonio Colonnade Hotel, Feb. 3 -6.

Shiloh Chapter will be the host chapter and serving as host is a wonderful privilege said E.H.P. Paige.

“We are excited to have the York Right Weekend here in San Antonio and we are sure everyone who comes will be satisfied with their stay,” said E.H.P. Paige. “I give my love to those able to come and bless everyone with traveling grace and arriving mercy.”

Lone Star Grand Guild holds Special Session, kicks off Prince Hall Masonic Family Toy Drive

Story by:

G.E. Burrell Parmer (1)

Photos by:

G.P. Rev. Bernard Brown (324)

FT. WORTH — By the authority of Grand Princess Captain R. Lucille Samuel, membership of the Lone Star Grand Guild of Texas convened at the Grand Temple for a Special Session and Training Conference, Sept. 25.

The occasion, which occurs annually, was convened for the purpose of transacting business, receiving committee reports and training.

During the Session, the Grand Guild delivered toys and gift cards to be given out during the 2nd Annual Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family Christmas Giveaway to be held at the Grand Temple, Dec. 18.

G.P.C. Samuel explained why it was important for the Grand Guild to participate in the Toy Drive.

"It is important that the Grand Guild support the Toy Drive because the purpose of our organization is to practice Love, Charity and Benevolence. We support the communities that we operate in throughout the state of Texas in all cities in which our 12 Guilds are located.

We are a part of the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family and it is our duty and obligation to support wherever and whenever



G.P.C. Samuel provides instruction during the Lone Star Grand Guild's Special Session and Training Conference held at the Grand Temple, Sept. 25.

needed. This is our second year leading the Toy Drive and we will continue to do so. We participate in all Charitable Programs of the Grand Lodge," said G.P.C. Samuel.

G.P.C. Samuel gave a brief account on the previous Christmas Giveaway.

"The children last year were amazed that someone took the time to remember them during the holiday season. They had smiles on their faces and they were very thankful. Some of these children expressed to me that this was their Christmas because Santa Claus did not visit their homes; a very humbling experience," said G.P.C. Samuel.

During last year's Christmas Giveaway, G.P.C. Samuel has the opportunity to meet each child and family that received the toys. She gave Christmas cards as they exited the Grand Temple.

G.P.C. Samuel explained why giving is important to her.

"We feel honored that we are allowed to enter the lives of children, seniors or any families in need of assistance. There is no better feeling than giving to those that are less fortunate. The smiles received are a gift like no other. The looks on their faces tell a thousand words of gratitude.

Our organization's mission is to **Serve and Support with Pride**. In any city that we visit, it is our intent to leave some type of benevolence, whether it be monetary, volunteering, clothing donations or providing items that are needed for families or supporting organizations that provide needy assistance," said G.P.C. Samuel.

In a continuing effort to dispense Charity, the Grand Guild donated \$400 to the All Children's Home Orphanage of Ft. Worth during the Session's Black and White Banquet held at the Carter Metropolitan CME Church.



Prince Hall Recognition celebrated at Grand Lodge of Connecticut's Annual Communication

Story by:

R.W. Carl G. Ek (63)

Grand Lodge of Connecticut, A.F. & A.M.

WALLINGFORD, Conn. — A series of articles in *Connecticut Freemasons* highlighted the 20th anniversary of the mutual recognition of Connecticut's A.F. & A.M. and Prince Hall Grand Lodges in 1989.

At the 2010 annual Grand Lodge Communication, two other events underscored the importance of this event, which changed the face of Masonic recognition worldwide.

The Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. presented a plaque to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge commemorating the historic event.

Then M.W. Grand Master Arthur H. Carlstrom presented the plaque to his Prince Hall counterpart, M.W. Ronald A. Thomas, and P.G.M. Lewis Myrick, who was the Prince Hall Grand Master at the time recognition was approved.

Bro. Myrick is only the second honorary P.G.M. of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M.

Later in the session, P.G.M. Kenneth B. Hawkins Sr. met with G.M. Carlstrom and Grand Historian Gary A. Littlefield in the Grand East. There, he presented the Grand Lodge with the records of the recognition process and its aftermath that he kept as the A.F. & A.M.

Recognition Committee Chairman, noting that these documents could now be safely kept in the new Grand Lodge library. Bro. Hawkins had previously presented the same documents to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

The book contains some 200 pages of correspondence, minutes, and other important data, and was



Four of the principal protagonists in the 1989 mutual recognition of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut and the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Connecticut, Inc. gather to reflect on the events leading up to that historic change made 21 years ago. From left to right are Past Grand Masters Kenneth B. Hawkins Sr., Lewis P. Myrick Sr., Gail Nelson Smith, and Gail Linnell Smith. .

divided by Bro. Hawkins into three parts, entitled "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly." This movie title provided a perfect series of definitions, first of the good work of successfully completing the mutual recognition process and the positive response that this generated worldwide.

The second referred to responses from other grand jurisdictions unhappy with Connecticut's path, or questioning our right to decide for our own Grand Lodge the propriety of our efforts.

The third, sadly, spoke of the directives of two Grand Masters to have their Grand Lodges withdraw Masonic recognition from the

Grand Lodge of Connecticut. A result of this was a Connecticut Mason living in one of the affected states being denied a Masonic funeral simply because of the state of his membership.

Both Connecticut Grand Lodges expressed their pleasure in their ongoing relationship and the pride of having been the first jurisdiction to adopt and retain mutual recognition.

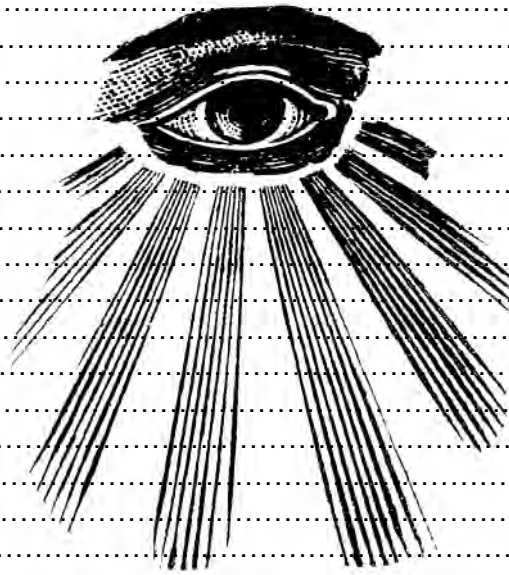
With 41 United States Grand Lodges in amity with their Prince Hall counterparts, it is safe to say that the "change" is permanent.

(Reprinted with permission from the Connecticut Freemasons.)

Called to the Celestial Lodge

The Great Architect of the Universe has called the following Brethren Home.

Rev. Mellie Arps.....	Western Star No. 11
William Black.....	Union Seal No. 64
Benny Brooks.....	St. Timothy No. 68
Rev. Wiley L. Dunn Sr.....	La Marque No. 373
Lewis E. Gosey.....	Sunset No. 76
J.B. Grant.....	Star Tom No. 100
Zeverly Harge.....	New Light No. 242
James H. Henderson Sr.....	La Marque No. 373
Walter Holland.....	Good Street Baptist No. 182
Daniel W. Jackson.....	Gate City No. 31
Robert Johnson Jr.....	Maple Leaf No. 147
Lee V. Johnson.....	Silver Link No. 121
Porter Johnson.....	John T. Maxey No. 74
Terry M. Jones.....	Key West No. 257
Melton R. Kemp.....	H.A. Coleman No. 189
Maurice Lloyd.....	Cherubim No. 237
Cecil E. Phillip.....	Cherubim No. 237
Steave R. Powell Jr.....	Rainbow No. 445
Johnny Tucker.....	Amity No. 4
Mathis Wade.....	Nacogdoches No. 369
John William Jr.....	Jackson No. 15
Ennis Williams.....	McNair Atomic No. 327
Samuel R. Williams.....	Rescue No. 20



2nd Annual Prince Hall Masonic Family Toy Drive & Christmas Giveaway

Saturday, December 18, 2010
12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
3433 Martin Luther King Freeway
Fort Worth, Texas



The Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family will collect and distribute age appropriate gifts and unwrapped toys to children under 16 years of age in the Fort Worth City limits.

Bring toys and/or gift cards for \$10 value or more to scheduled sessions before December 18, 2010.





122nd Annual
Grand Conclave
Lone Star Grand
Commandery

2011 York Rite Weekend Prince Hall Affiliated

Hosts:

Alamo Commander No. 7, Knights Templar Masons
Shiloh Royal Arch Chapter No. 16, Royal Arch Masons
Flowers of Alamo Guild No. 8,
Heroines of the Templar Crusaders



130th Annual
Grand Convocation
Most Excellent
Prince Hall Grand
Chapter of
H.R.A.M.



Advance Registration
\$75.00

Registration Package
www.lonestargc.org

Point of Contact
E.C. Ben Burleson
(210) 788-9746
mrbenji2@satx.rr.com

82nd Annual Grand
Conclave
Lone Star Grand
Guild

February 3-6, 2011
Omni Hotel at the Colonnade
9821 Colonnade Blvd.
San Antonio, Texas 78230
(800) 843-6664

Late Registration
\$100.00

Hotel
www.omnihotels.com

Point of Contact
E.H.P. William Paige
(210) 325-0518
stonesquarer@satx.rr.com



Join in Giving Honors to: Bro. William "Ole Barracuda" Craig



Friday, November 19, 2010
7 p.m. - until

Fort Sam Houston Golf Club
1050 Harry Wurzbach
San Antonio, Texas



POC:
Bro. Anthony L. Davis
(210) 262-8615
Bro. Charlie Loud
(210) 326-4120



Seating is limited to the first 200 quests.



Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family Grand Installations 2010-2011



G.M. Cleveland K. Wilson (Ark.) presents the Gavel to G.M. Wilbert M. Curtis.

P.G.M. Edwin B. Cash installs elected Grand Lodge officers.



G.M. Cleveland K. Wilson (Ark.) installs G.M.A.M. Jackie Levingson and D.G.J. Isaac G. Clary Sr.

G.M. Cleveland K. Wilson (Ark.) installs officers of the Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho.



G.M. Cleveland K. Wilson (Ark.) installs G.W.M. Martha Wolridge and G.W.P. Robert B. Calloway Jr.

G.M. Cleveland K. Wilson (Ark.) installs officers of Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter.