



The Texas Prince Hall Freemason



Official Publication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas



“Well DONE is better than Well SAID.”

-GM Michael T. Anderson

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The Texas Prince Hall Freemason

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GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

2023-2024

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R.W. Frank D. Jackson
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R.W. Norman Thomas

ELECTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

2023-2024



Michael T. Anderson
Most Worshipful Grand Master



Big-Bryce A. Hardin
R.W. Deputy Grand Master



Frank D. Jackson
R.W. Grand Senior Warden



Ronald D. Gerac
R.W. Grand Junior Warden



Robert J. Datcher
R.W. Grand Treasurer



Tracey C. Bittle
R.W. Grand Secretary



Marcus Thomas
R.W. Grand Tiler



Samuel L. Hobbs, Jr
R.W. Grand Auditor



Joseph Thomas, III
R.W. Grand Auditor



Norman Thomas
R.W. Grand Auditor

Grand Master's Message

A MASON IS



A Mason is one who lives his Masonry every day of this existence and does not reserve the good offices of brotherhood, consideration, courtesy, altruism, justice, and compassion for lodge nights only.

A Mason loves his country and strives in every way to support loyally the institutions of regularly constituted, just, and equitable government.

A Mason does not hesitate to go out of his way to aid an erring brother, to minister to the needy, or endeavor to uplift the fallen.

A Mason has time to lend an attentive ear to the story of the Brother out of work, or the widow and orphan out of food, and to render prompt assistance with that sympathetic understanding which inspires renewed hope and destroys discouragement.

- A Mason does good whenever and wherever possible, not counting the cost or anticipating the reward.
- He ever strives to be worthy of fellowship in the great Fraternity. He is not afraid of letting his light shine before men, having no fear of their judgement or censure.

* The Mason devoutly believes in God, the Great Architect; otherwise, he never would have been permitted to enter the portal of the Temple.

He venerates Deity according to his own religious beliefs and accords to every man the same right and privilege.

- The Mason does not claim to be a superior person to his profane neighbor, for he realizes that all men are his brethren under the Fatherhood of God. He does, however, constantly strive to be better than his former self.
- The Mason believes in enlightenment and ardently supports education recognizing the fact that ignorance enslaves and that illiteracy, superstition, crime, and vices are all companions.
- The Mason desires all men to be free from oppression and tyranny, no matter under what guise -- subtle or brazen - these twin demons may operate.

"Thus, to be a real Mason is not exactly the easiest thing in this life."

The Leadership Resource Kit: An Effort to Restore Foundational Principles for Successful Lodges

R.: W.: Ronald D. Gerac, M.Ed., KYGCH – Grand Junior Warden, MWPHGLOTX

District Deputy Training Series Presents



Lodge Leadership Resource Kit
*Made Especially for the Current and Future Leaders in Texas Prince Hall
Freemasonry*

Created for the 147th Annual Session
Ronald D. Gerac (147), M.Ed., KCT, KYGCH
R.:W.: Grand Junior Warden

CYPRESS, TEXAS – I celebrated 30 years of consecutive active participation as a Prince Hall Mason here in the Country of Texas on October 23, 2023. Although far too many to name here, I have learned from Masonic Giants of Texas Prince Hall Masonry in my District in the personalities of Booker T. Washington (200), Solomon J. Mouton (280), Arthur L. Cole (47), T.R. Carr (47), J.C. Williams (147), Right Worshipful Ernie M. Williams, Jr. (3), and Arthur L. Banks, Jr. These forementioned Pillars of Freemasonry knew their ritual well...but they also knew the BUSINESS of running a Lodge even better. Back in “those days,” Brothers attended Lodge with a written agenda, detailed reports, and a plan. Fast-forward to 2006, my inaugural year as (one of, if not **the** youngest ever to serve) District Deputy Grand Master for District 15-A. I can’t speak for others, but I carried those foundational principles of running a Lodge with me as I progressed in Masonry. To my utter surprise, after visiting Lodges in and around my District, I discovered an anomaly, and it can best be summed up like this...Either:

- A - The Masonic Elders did not train the younger generation in these principles, or**
- B – The younger generation was not listening.**

Here is a sample of my observations of this anomaly:

1. I attended about 5 Masonic Funerals...and saw it done 5 unique ways.
2. I once read an audit report, and all it said was, “The books are good.”
3. Many Lodges did not have a written agenda (Trestle Board).

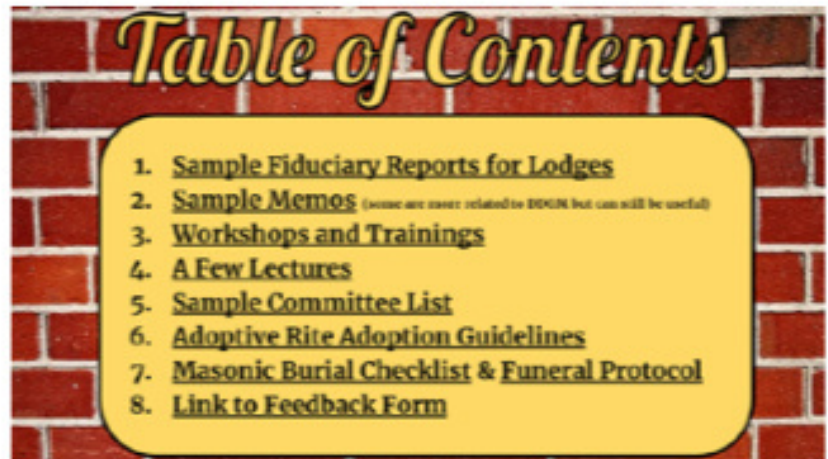
4. When I asked one Master of a Lodge why his candidates were improperly dressed for a particular degree, his answer was "That's the way my Past Masters did it." (*Please find my lecture on Masonic Turds.*)
5. When a Brother passed away, the entire membership was not notified.
6. A Lodge did not know the proper steps to take when a Brother passed away.

I could go on.

In effect, a GREAT NEED was discovered for Local Lodge Leadership, especially in the current digital age. Masters needed a resource hub for easily accessible information upon demand. This would be easier than just printing a bunch of documents and sending them via email one-by-one and PRAYING that the email gets read and that the documents get saved. Therefore, in an effort to help the Leadership Team of my District to be more self-sufficient, and in an effort to help them experience success in running their Lodge (and to make MY job *that* much easier), I created the Local Lodge Resource Kit.

The content of this resource draws upon my experience as Master of my Lodge and as District Deputy Grand Master. The major difference between the "then" and the "now" is back then, Brothers committed EVERYTHING to memory, even protocols and procedures.

Nowadays, with the technological advances that have been made in just the last 10 years alone, many of these procedures and protocols have to be reduced to checklists and forms or documents. It's the exact same content as before, but with a technological twist. Now, if a Master or Brother doesn't know, it's because he **doesn't want to research it**. There are awesome resources in this kit that have yet to be tapped into by the membership, like the section entitled "**Workshops and Trainings**." If I had to decide which part of this kit is the most prized, it would be this one because contained therein are actual pre-planned trainings and workshops that are ready to go.



Workshops & Trainings

[WTA-Diagnostic Test](#)

[WTA 1.2 Outline & WTA 1.3 Outline](#)

[Understanding the DDGM Annual Visit](#)

[Processing a Demit](#)

[Deacons & Stewards](#)

Preparing To Be: [JW](#) [SW](#) [WM](#)

[Flawless Degree Work](#)

[Masonic Trials](#)

[Secretaries & Treasurers](#)

[Wardens](#)

[Tylers & Marshals](#)

[2nd in Command Training](#)

The Unwritten Laws of Masonry

Once this undiscovered gem is finally unearthed by the Brethren it's meant to target, the result will be undoubtedly more successful Lodges, which will make successful Districts, and effect, an AWESOME Grand Lodge.

Texas Prince Hall Family Celebrates the Crystal Anniversary of its Annual Toy Giveaway

Article by Ronald D. Gerac, Chief Editor

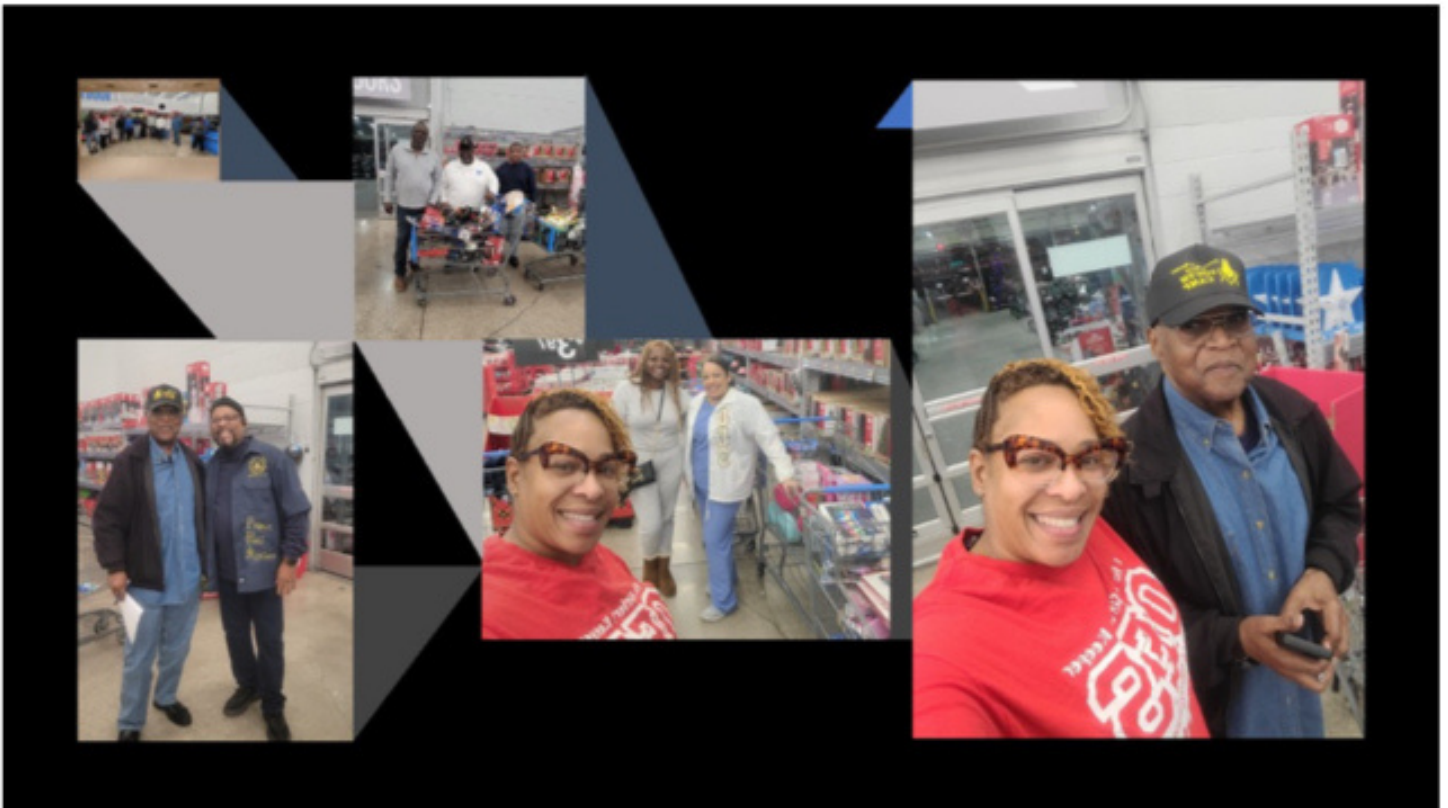
FORT WORTH, TEXAS – Saturday, December 16, 2023 may have been an average, ordinary day for most families...finishing up festive decorating for both the inside and outside of the house, adding a few more items on the big grocery list, preparing for family to visit from near and far, and next-to-the-last-minute Christmas shopping on Amazon. However, for hundreds of children in the Tarrant County area, this day was a dream come true.



The Christmas Toy Drive/Giveaway is one of several established, long-standing programs under the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation of Texas. Success of the program is dependent upon physical and monetary donations from anyone desirous to give, not just the Texas Prince Hall Family. Each constituent lodge in the jurisdiction is asked each year to bring 10 new, unwrapped toys to the Grand Lodge every November at its annual Mid-Winter Special Session. Other Masonic entities in Texas have joined in as well, donating a mix between toys, gift cards, and cash. A dedicated team of Brothers and Sisters in the DFW Metroplex come together a week before the giveaway date to shop, shop some more, and to keep on shopping. They volunteer valuable time to push baskets up and down dozens of aisles in many stores, selecting the latest toys that meet current trends among children. Grand Worthy Patron Emeritus Robert Calloway, the program's Head Chairman, denotes these volunteers "Santa's Little Elves."



Santa's Elves in action. Can you tell which one is "Santa?"



Some Elves are professional Selfie Snappers.

Brother Calloway (bottom left and bottom right in the pic collage above) has worked tirelessly for 15 years-plus to ensure the success of the toy drive/giveaway. From the inaugural event in 2008 to the 15th annual event in 2023 (COVID year was skipped out of an abundance of caution and safety), through an assortment of weather forecasts, every giveaway has been a huge success.



As can be seen from the pictures, volunteerism is the driving force behind the success of this program. All Texas Rites: Concordant, Appendant, and Adoptive: have all asked their constituents to pitch in either by bringing unwrapped gifts or by making monetary donations of any amount. And although we all know just how hard Brother Calloway works, he still makes it

look easy. TPHFM got the opportunity to ask Brother Calloway about serving as lead on this program:

TPHFM: *Did you volunteer to chair this endeavor, or were you volun-told?*

Bro. Calloway: *I was volun-told. I accept the challenge and have enjoyed every minute.*

TPHFM: *What brings you the most joy from this event?*

Bro. Calloway: *Working with all the members of the Prince Hall Masonic Family. It is also very rewarding to see the smiles of the faces of all the children that receives gifts. There is also pleasure in knowing that the parents were happy as well.*

TPHFM: *15 years of giving really shows stability in the charitable efforts of this branch of the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation. What is your vision for future giveaway events?*

Bro. Calloway: *I would love for us to improve our community outreach to serve more children. Get more media coverage. Involve churches and schools in our event. Continue to bring all members of the Prince Hall Masonic Family together.*

TPHFM: *Finally, what message do you have for our readers?*

Bro. Calloway: *Always remember why you became a member of this organization. Charity, Love, and Unity should always be our "Motto."*



DISTRICT 24 LED BY POK 620 PERFORMS DEGREE CEREMONY AT 2023 MID-WINTER

Story by WM Adrian Davenport (POK 620 Worshipful Master)

The 2023 Mid-Winter Session was held November 10-11, 2023, at the Grand Masonic Temple, located at 3433 Martin Luther King Freeway, Ft. Worth, Texas. All Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers and Brethren were invited to attend. Masonic District 19 opened the occasional lodge promptly at 6 p.m. and turned it over to District 24 for ritualistic work. The task was assigned to Pride of Killeen Lodge #620 where Worshipful Master Adrian Davenport was the officiating Worshipful Master for the evening.



DDGM Tommy Levi with the Degree Team and members of District 24 after the 3rd Degree ceremony

His degree team consisted of members of his lodge Pride of Killeen #620 with some assistance from other lodges within the 24th District. Fifty-two Fellowcraft Masons from around the state of Texas were raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. The degree team showed ritualistic proficiency and professionalism throughout the ceremony. The craft



WM Adrian Davenport (620) preparing the Degree team for the 3rd degree raising



PM Curtis Williams (620) given the newly raised Master Masons their Charge in the 3rd Degree



in attendance were entertained and acknowledged an excellent performance of degree work by the team. The members on the degree team were, WM Adrian Davenport (620), WM Sammie Jordan (227), WM Gaylon Sandles (71), SW Kenneth Nash (620), JW David Stadmire (242), SD PM Jerry Mcgrone (620), JD Gregory Williams (620), PM Curtis Williams (620), PM Kenneth Jones, (620) PM Gregory Benton (227), Bro. Garey Howard (620), and Bro. Jermaine Hollis (242). Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Honorable Michael T. Anderson also gave a head nod of approval for a job well done.



New Light Lodge No. 242 Supports Widows

Story by PM Marvin Kelker, District 24

Worshipful Master William Coleman and the brothers of New Light Lodge #242 on Thursday, November 16, 2023, held a quarterly Widows' Luncheon at Golden Corral in Killeen, Texas with the widows of our deceased brothers. It has been over 18 months since the last luncheon due to COVID and other circumstances. We were blessed to have 5 widows present; the widows that attended were Margarita Wright (PM William Wright), Shirley M. Gideon (PM Kenneth Gideon), Addle Perry (PM Bud Perry), Velinda Griffin (Bro. Ray Griffin), and Loretta Bell (Bro. Eddie Bell Sr.).



Sitting from L. to R. Mrs. Lois Kelker, Mrs. Margarita Wright (PM William Wright), Mrs. Addle Perry (PM Bud Perry), Mrs. Shirley M. Gideon (PM Kenneth Gideon), Mrs. Loretta Bell (Bro. Eddie Bell Sr.), Mrs. Velinda Griffin (Bro. Ray Griffin)

Standing from L. to R. Bro. Timothy Kelker, PM Marvin, Kelker, PM Curtis Haynes, PM James Clark, WM William Coleman, PM Joe Rose, PM Christopher Campbell, PM Alphonso Ford

The ladies had had an enjoyable time seeing, talking, eating with one another, and conversing about their husbands, as well as all the time and effort they placed in the lodge while they were living. Two of the widows were first-time attendees; additionally, they were happy to come out and see many of the brothers they had not seen in a while.

We had one widow, sister Mary Brown (PM Acy Brown), who was unable to attend because she is now living in San Antonio with her son. Since the last luncheon, one of the sisters has been called home, Kathleen Cummings (Bro. Marvin Cummings). The ladies requested an exchange of telephone numbers and addresses of the ladies present so that they could contact the group for general support or just to talk if one was having a difficult time. They also asked that we keep in touch with them when we are doing events, as they may want to join us if it's not too late at night. We concluded the luncheon with a prayer, took a group photo, and escorted the ladies to their cars.

MEMBERS OF NEW LIGHT LODGE NO. 242 ATTEND CHURCH SERVICE

Story by PM Darryl Murray, District 24



The brothers of New Light Lodge #242 attended their quarterly church visit on Sunday 29 October 2023. The host church was Anderson Chapel AME located at 1002 Jefferies Avenue, Killeen, Texas. Members of New Light Lodge were greeted and welcomed by the church leadership and church family. There were 10 members present from New Light Lodge No. 242. Additionally, the sisters of B.L. Seawood Chapter #86 and New Star Light Chapter #5, Order of the Eastern Star, were present with a total of 10 members.

Pastor Rodrecus M. Johnson recognized the Masonic organizations at the beginning of the service. He thanked everyone for their attendance and their community service efforts. The Reverend Ayonna Johnson gave a powerful sermon, which was well-received and inspirational. Anderson AME church has a vibrant ministry and many opportunities to worship throughout the week, and of course, on Sundays.

Worshipful Master William Coleman presented a \$75.00 donation for the church offering and thanked Anderson AME church for allowing the Killeen Masonic family to fellowship. Church services concluded with an opportunity to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and the benediction. New Light Lodge will continue to support community churches by participating in church visits and events to ensure the fostering of great relationships and to make our community a better place to live.

Thomas H. Keithley Lodge 45: Annual Holiday Dinner

Story by Brother Byron Evans II, District 24



On the night of December 10, 2023, Brothers of Thomas H. Keithley Lodge No. 45 held its Annual Holiday Dinner, celebrating family, unity, and stewardship. Thomas H. Keithley Lodge 45 hosts an annual benefit dinner to enhance the lodge experience for its members, their wives, and the public.

This grand fellowship was held at the elegant Estancia Brazilian Steakhouse located at 1000 Research Blvd Suite B. Austin, TX 78759 in Austin's Arboretum area. Members of the lodge, their wives, family, and friends gathered over the finest cuts of meats and served themselves just enough veggies and desserts to fill their bellies!

The Annual Holiday Dinner also serves as an opportunity for members to donate to THK 45's cause to benefit households in need of gifts and toys for the holidays. The dinner concluded with a snapshot of those in attendance, the toys attendees were able to bring, some special District 24 guests, and the smiles and full faces of those who enjoyed a delicious meal.

Members and guests attending the dinner were Worshipful Master Octavior Washington, Senior Warden Derrick White, Past Master Otho Wilbur, Sr., Past Master Paul Emmerson, Past Master David Featherston, Marshal Nikolas Shanklin, Sr., Brother Victor Henry, Brother Mike Owens, Brother Chaplain Byron Evans II, Brother Essian Ita, Special District Deputy Grand Master Alphonso Ford, and District Deputy Grand Master Tommy Levi.

Thomas H. Keithley Lodge No. 45: 2023 Inaugural Community Leaders Awards Brunch

Story by Brother Kevin Mathis, District 24

On the night of December 2, 2023, Thomas H. Keithley Lodge No. 45 held its Inaugural Community Leaders Awards Brunch, celebrating Servant Leadership. The purpose of the event was to acknowledge and celebrate the leaders in our communities for their outstanding contributions, work, and achievements. The event was held in the Capital of Texas inside the Stephen F. Austin Office Building, located at 1700 Congress Avenue, in Austin, Texas, 78701 on the 1st Floor Main Conference Room. The program started at approximately 12:17 pm and was well attended!



J.S.W. McCay's Wisdom
Award
Vanessa Henry



E.M. Williams' Strength
Award
Andre Patterson

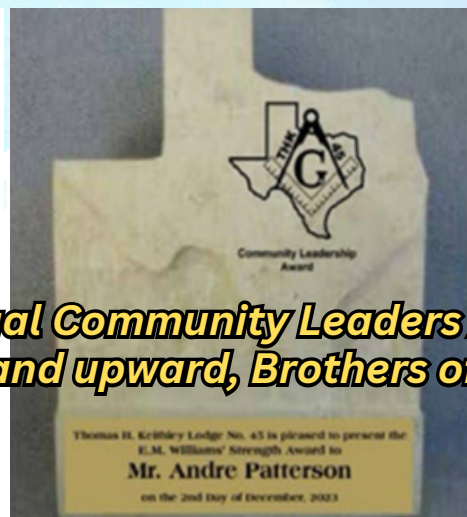
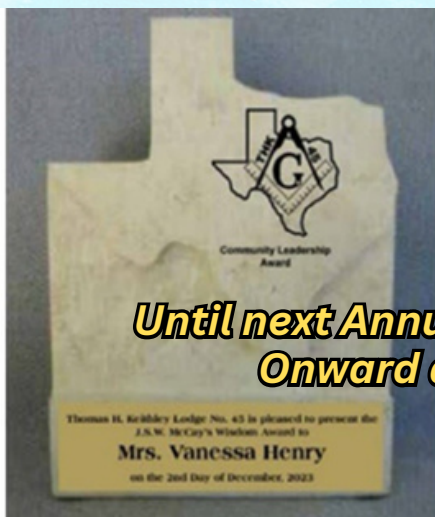


Lewis Washington's
Beauty Award
Karl Spencer



Thomas H. Keithley Lodge No. 45's; very own, Brother Essein E. Ita, served as the event's Master of Ceremonies. Brother Ita gave a brief history of Prince Hall Masonry and a detailed history of the Thomas H. Keithley Lodge No. 45 crest for public information. He also introduced each awardee and presented them with their respective awards. Awardees were Mrs. Vanessa Henry, Mr. Karl Spencer, and in absentia, Mr. Andre Patterson. Each awardee offered eloquent words of acceptance and stated that they were extremely honored and grateful for THK 45's acknowledgment of their collective work and achievements in the community.

A post-ceremony Reception followed the award ceremony where a nice array of hors d'oeuvres were served, sentiments and feedback were given from the Inaugural Community Leaders and attendees. All attendees and awardees agreed on this one observation: it was a successful endeavor! To close the event, the awardees, attendees, and the members of THK 45 together made a list of ways to enhance THK 45's engagement with the public, which was recorded in the archives of Thomas H. Keithley, Texas Lodge No. 45.



***Until next Annual Community Leaders Award Brunch,
Onward and upward, Brothers of THK 45!***

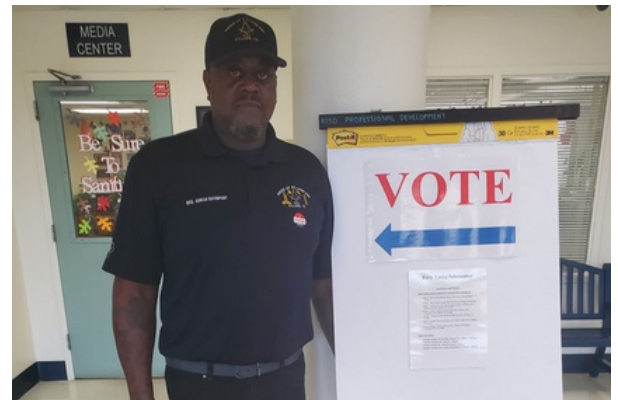


Pride of Killeen Lodge #620 Packing the Polls Voting Day

STORY BY: PM KENNETH B. JONES SR. DISTRICT 24

The Brothers of Pride of Killeen Lodge #620 hosted and participated in Pack the Polls Day on 26 October 2023 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The date was part of the early voting timeframe provided. This event was held at the Dock Jackson Professional Learning Center, located at 902 Reverend R. A. Abercrombie Drive. This polling location was chosen due to it being in Killeen's historically Black Marlboro neighborhood. Additionally, the Learning Center sits on the street named after a past member of POK #620, Rev R. A. Abercrombie. The namesake of the building was the 1st Black teacher and principal in the city of Killeen. Members of the lodge and family members came out to cast their vote on 14 very important constitutional amendments that affect many in our community, as well as across the entire state of Texas. Worshipful Master Adrian Davenport stated, "I'm happy to be here in the midst of history, trying to help make history."

Empower



The members present, their wives, and friends showed up and made their votes count at this event. There were virtually no wait times with no lines at the voting polls on this day. The voting clerk staff was very courteous and provided the assistance necessary for all to vote in a timely manner. "It was great to come together as a lodge to help make an impact in our community," Worshipful Master Davenport stated. "Although we were few in numbers, we were huge in our voices being heard, and the next time we will grow in both. The lodge plans to Pack the Polls again at the next voting opportunity."

NOLAN CREEK #227 ANNUAL HOLIDAY BASKET SUPPORT FOR BELTON, TEXAS AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

Story By: Past Master Gregory Benton, District 24

CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR WAYS TO ASSIST AND CONTRIBUTE TO SUPPORT OUR WIDOWS AND THE BELTON COMMUNITY RESIDENTS.

Belton, Texas - (20 Nov-18 Dec 2023) Annually, the members of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 get together during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays to provide dinners for our widows and community members of Belton, Texas and the surrounding communities of the lodge.

The members of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 contact the residents and area churches to see if someone in the community needs a dinner basket for Thanksgiving or Christmas. Dinners are picked up on a scheduled date and time at Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227. The members of the Lodge may also deliver the baskets on request to anyone in the community who was not able to pick the meals up.



The meals are purchased by the members and placed in boxes. The items in the box are turkeys for Thanksgiving, hams for Christmas, cake mix, mashed potatoes, dressing, rolls, vegetables, and candied yams.

When the residents arrive to retrieve their basket, the members of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 always greet them with a smile and ask if there is anything else we can assist them with. The members also assist with taking the basket to their vehicles to complete the delivery.

This is just one of the activities that the members of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 do annually for the great people of Belton, Texas. The Officers and members of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 are so proud that we can provide this service and take pride in the ability to do this event year after year.



NEW LIGHT LODGE NO. 242 SUPPORTS THE COMMUNITY

Story by PM Darryl Murray, District 24



Worshipful Master William Coleman and the brothers of New Light Lodge No.242 assisted Greater Peace Missionary Baptist Church with delivering meals on 24 November 2023. Meals were prepared by the church members to feed the elderly in the community. Greater Peace Missionary Baptist Church is located on 4201 Zephyr Road in Killeen Texas and is led by Pastor J.A. Moland. Their church motto is “Working with God, To Extend His Kingdom, On Earth”.

The brothers of New Light Lodge No. 242 helped to deliver 250 meals using the Meals on Wheels concept and ensured that meals were delivered to the door of the elderly in the community. Brothers delivered meals from 8AM – 4PM, notwithstanding the day after the Thanksgiving holiday. New Light Lodge No. 242 received and answered the call to help fulfill the need to deliver meals to the elderly citizens in Killeen.

New Light Lodge No. 242 has a rich history of community service in Killeen, Texas, especially during the holiday season and throughout the Masonic year. “It is imperative that we continue to help our community through good deeds and kindness,” said Worshipful Master Coleman “We will always look for an opportunity to serve.”



PRINCE HALL MASONIC

HERITAGE SATURDAY



WEAR YOUR AFRICAN ATTIRE



**Family Banquet
June 22nd, 2024
@ 7PM**

Hempstead Masonic Family Spreads Christmas Cheer



During the Christmas season, the Hempstead Masonic Family (Lone Star Lodge #85 PHA, Tekhen HRAM Chapter #10, and Valley of the Kings Council #12) partnered with the TENSion Foundation as part of their annual holiday giveaway. Between the Midwinter Session and Annual Toy Giveaway, they delivered twelve boxes full of toys to the Grand Temple. Special thanks goes out to Deputy Grand Master Big-Bryce Hardin for his assistance in unpacking the boxes.

On Dec 18th, they provided toys to some families in need at McFee Elementary in Cy-Fair ISD. The next day, they assisted the City of Hempstead, Texas with their Turkey/Toy Drive by donating 5 turkeys and a large bag full of toys. Several bags full of toys were donated to Mt. Zion CME Church in the Sunny Side Community in the Brookshire/Pattison area of Waller County for their upcoming toy giveaway. They also donated four Amazon boxes full of toys to children in need at Hempstead Elementary School in Hempstead ISD, fulfilling the entire wish list that they provided.

On Christmas Eve, they partnered with the Prairie View Volunteer Fire Association and Waller County Justice of the Peace Precinct 3 Judge Elaine Jackson to distribute toys to children in need in the Prairie View area of Waller County.





In total, they were able to contribute over \$2,500 in toys to needy families to help make their holidays a little brighter.

This could not be done without community partners and your continued support. The Hempstead Masonic Family would like to say Happy Holidays and we wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2024!



19th District Council Honors at the Recent MEPHGC 142nd Grand Convocation in Spring, Texas

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS – During the 142nd Grand Convocation of the Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter, HRAM of Texas held in February, 2024, the 19th District Council members belonging to the York Rite family were recognized for their outstanding contributions and achievements. It is with great pleasure that we extend our congratulations to the following individuals:

Sister Beverly Sledge - Woman of Valor

Sister Beverly Sledge, Deputy for the Guild at Flowers of Alamo #8, has been recognized as the Woman of Valor. Sister Beverly's dedication, commitment, and exemplary service have not gone unnoticed. Her contributions to our organization and community reflect the true spirit of a Woman of Valor. Let us join in celebrating Sister Beverly Sledge's well-deserved honor and expressing our gratitude for her inspiring leadership.

Story by Sidney H. Thompson, SDDGM (District 19)



SDDGM Ben Burleson - Right Eminent Grand Commander

SDDGM Ben Burleson has been elected as the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Lone Star Grand Commandery. This esteemed position is a testament to his dedication and leadership within the organization.

DDGM William (Billy) Paige - Commendable Leadership

We would also like to commend DDGM William (Billy) Paige for successfully completing two years as the Right Eminent Grand Commander. His commitment and contributions have undoubtedly left a lasting impact on the Lone Star Grand Commandery.

Eminent Commander Tadarian Harrell
Eminent Commander of the Year

Congratulations to Eminent Commander Tadarian Harrell for being recognized as Eminent Commander of the Year. Alamo Commandery #7 also earned the title of Commandery of the Year, with Eminent Commander Harrell securing the position of Eminent Grand Junior Warden for Lone Star Grand Commandery Knights Templar.

Companion Tadarian Harrell, Secretary of the Year - Shiloh No. 16

A well-deserved acknowledgment goes to the Secretary of the Year representing Shiloh No. 16 for the MEPHGCOFTX-HRAM.



Companion George Shell - King Contest Winner

Companion George Shell has secured victory in the King Contest out of 24 Chartered Chapters. Such achievements are a testament to the dedication and excellence demonstrated by all involved.

May these accomplishments be celebrated not only for the recognition they bring but also for the positive influence and inspiration they provide to others within the community. We wish continued success to each of the distinguished individuals and entities mentioned.

THE SILVER SQUARE STUDY CLUB PROVIDES DINNER TO LOCAL VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Story by: Past Master Kenneth B. Jones, Sr.
District 24



The Brothers of the Silver Square Study Club provided a potluck dinner meal at a local city of Killeen Veterans of Foreign Wars (V.F.W. 9191) post. We provided a meal to the officers, membership, family, and friends of VFW9191 on Monday, 4 December 2023 starting at 8 pm. The atmosphere was very welcoming coming from the VFW Commander Kevin Williams, his staff, and all in attendance.

The Silver Square Study Club is a subsidiary under the leadership of Worshipful Master Adrian Davenport and the membership of Pride of Killeen Lodge #620. VFW9191 Commander Williams seeks a different civic, fraternal, or community organization to provide a meal to its members and guests on the night that Monday Night football is played. Junior Warden Jimmie Gee provided and proposed this idea to WM Davenport and the membership, and it was approved to provide the meal on this date. With the full support of the Study Club's membership, JW Gee planned and coordinated all the food and dessert donations coming from the membership. Past Master Kenneth Jones assisted while receiving food items and donations as well. The Silver Square Study Club members were lining up to prep, cook, and serve on this occasion.



According to VFW9191 Commander Williams, we fed over 160 meals to those in attendance. Prior to the Blessing of the meal, Commander Williams provided about a 5-minute introduction of who the men of Silver Square Study Club were and what they represented in the community. “These are men who will get out in the community and work for the betterment of our community, and they should be honored for this every day. They honor me by being here today,” stated VFW9191 CDR Williams. He then said a prayer for the community, veterans, and the meal being provided. Dinner was then served.

Members of Silver Square Study Club served each guest in attendance for the meal with the utmost professionalism, and of course, service with a smile. WM Davenport was very pleased with the all-out effort and body of work that was displayed on this day. “Despite the hard work involved, it helped to bring the members closer together in fellowship and unity,” stated WM Davenport. He went further to say, “This type of brotherly fellowship is what we strive for every day.”

Pride of The South Lodge No. 324 Date Night

By Darrell Bell, Worshipful Master, Pride of The South Lodge No. 324, District 20

Ft. Worth, TX - On Saturday, February 10, 2024, Pride of the South Lodge #324 hosted a Valentine's Day Date Night with all of the wives at Diamond Oaks Country Club in Ft. Worth, Texas. This private country club golf course is the same facility where we had our lodge banquet last April. It was a great night of good food, entertainment, and we gave out flowers for all of the wives of POTS 324. We had spoken word and a comedian for entertainment. It was a great night that will be remembered.



Valentine's
DATE NIGHT

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Prince Hall Cote D'Ivoire Tres Respectable Grande Loge Prince Hall Cote D'Ivoire

Consecrated in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire West Africa
November 18, 2023

Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa, by PGM Wilbert M. Curtis

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Prince Hall Cote d'Ivoire was consecrated and constituted under the authority of the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Florida and Its Jurisdictions Incorporated PHA.

The three regularly constituted subordinate lodges; namely Roots Lodge No. 1, Silence Lodge No. 2 and Aurore Lodge No. 3 met



in convention to form the Prince Hall Affiliated Grand Lodge in the Country of Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa. All three Lodges had been working under the jurisdiction of The MWUGL of Florida since April 2013.

Roots (656) Lodge and Silence (657) Lodge were originally setup as Lodges under dispensation in the MWPGL of Texas in February, 2012. Roots Lodge received its charter and number in June 2012 as Roots Lodge No. 656. The members of Roots Lodge No. 656 opened the Occasional Lodge for the 137th Annual Communication of the MWPGL of Texas.

The consecration ceremonies were conducted by Most Worshipful Jeffrey Jones and a representation of five Grand Lodge officers of the MWUGL of Florida. I was also in attendance of the ceremonies by invitation of MW Bro. Louis Metan and the brothers of Cote d'Ivoire.



With 5 days of well-orchestrated ceremonies and celebrations by the brothers of Cote d'Ivoire, The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Prince Hall Cote d'Ivoire (GLCI, PHA) was established.

Five Days In Cote d'Ivoire.

Prior to the arrival of the delegation of Florida, I arrived in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from Dallas by the way of Paris, France on November 15, 2023 around 10:30pm. It just so happened to be my birthday. Upon arrival I was greeted by GM-Elect Louis Metan, GSec-Elect Eric Koffi and a host of brethren who drove me to the hotel and with a small warm reception surprised me with a small birthday cake and champagne. The hour being late and after 21 hours traveling, we had a short and hospitable celebration.



The Reception of the Delegation from United States

On November 16, 2023, the brothers of Cote d'Ivoire welcomed the delegation from Florida at the Felix Houphouet Boigny airport and proceeded to the Sofitel Hotel Ivoire. From there the delegation traveled to the home of Grand Master-Elect Louis Metan for an African traditional welcome ceremony, a debriefing of activities and dinner. We were greeted by the host with a sash placed around our necks and a fresh coconut.



The welcoming ceremony consisted of the host assigning a brother to speak on his behalf and a brother to speak on behalf of the visiting head of the delegation, Grand Master Jeffrey Jones. The two brothers exchanged salutations and then the visiting delegation head communicated thru the two appointees how things were when he left home. The host reciprocated and afterwards the host and visitors are able to communicate directly. GM-Elect Metan then presented a gift to GM Jones. Afterwards, we were treated to a delicious Cote d'Ivoire cuisine dinner.



Visit to the Minister President of the Union of Cities and Municipalities of Cote d'Ivoire

Friday, November 17, 2023, the delegation visited the Minister President of the Union of Cities and municipalities of Cote d'Ivoire. We were received by traditional tribal chiefs, percussion bands and dancers. The delegations from the United States were bestowed the title of Honorary Tribal Chiefs. GM Jones of Florida was honored as the Head Chief. My African name is Chief Nanan Koutouan.



Below are pictures of the real tribal chiefs, the honorary tribal chiefs from the U.S. delegation and Chief Nanan Koutouan.



Lunch at Deputy Grand Master's Home

From there the delegation traveled to the home of Deputy Grand Master-Elect Isidore Niamkey for lunch. It too was a traditional multi-course meal including baked fish, chicken, beef, pork and my favorite; gumbo just to name some. I really admired his family portrait (in the background) that is made from phone and computer keypad keys.



Both Bro. Isidore and Bro. Metan were very hospitable and opened up their homes to us. A visit to the Museum of Civilizations and Artisanal Center of the City of Abidjan was scheduled for 3:00pm but the hospitality was so enjoyable that we did not go.



The Consecration Ceremony

On Saturday, November 18, 2023 the delegation travelled to the Noom Hotel where the brothers were assembled for the consecration ceremonies. In a public ceremony, a representation of the MWUGL of Florida received the brothers of the three constituted Lodges: Roots, Silence and Aroure for the purpose of constituting and consecrating the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Prince Hall Cote d'Ivoire. The Grand Lodge was dedicated and proclaimed a new Grand Lodge. The Elected officers were installed and given the duties of their office. The Charge was given to Grand Master Louis Metan followed by the Charge to the brethren of the Grand Lodge.



The gavel of authority was presented to Most Worshipful Grand Master Louis Metan who immediately installed the appointed Officers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Prince Hall of Cote d'Ivoire. He then followed the installation with his very impressive Installation speech. See an excerpt of it at the end of this article.

After the consecration ceremony, at approximately 11:30 a.m. there was a cocktail lunch at the hotel.



Laying the cornerstone of the future Headquarters

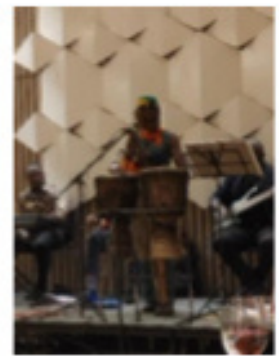
At approximately 12:00 p.m. the delegation and members of the Grand Lodge traveled to the site of the new Grand Masonic Temple. There, with an abbreviated ceremony, Past Grand Master Wilbert Curtis offered up a prayer, Grand Master Jeffrey Jones brought words and Grand Master Louis Metan gave an inspirational oration, translated by his son Bro. Fabrice Metan. He spoke about the newly selected site of their Grand Masonic Temple. He stated that the original site of 2012 was not what God had plans for the Grand Lodge and that this site will be the one for generations to come. The cornerstone was laid by Grand Master Metan, Grand Master Jones of Florida, and Past Grand Master Curtis of Texas.

The site of the Grand Lodge sets up high on a hill where the surroundings can be seen for miles around. The delegation then returned to the Sofitel Hotel Ivoire to prepare for the Family Banquet.



The Family Banquet

At approximately 7:00pm the delegation traveled back to the Noom Hotel for the Family Banquet which included entertainment by two African drum and dance groups, a very versatile band, and dancing. The dinner was a delectable three course meal. The visitors and guests were recognized and presented with gifts. Special Guest included members of other Cote d'Ivoire Masonic organizations and local dignitaries.



Trip To Yamoussoukro, Mass and Houphouet-Boigny Foundation

On Sunday, November 19, 2023 the delegation along with members of the Grand Lodge and their significant others departed Abidjan to Yamoussoukro to attend Mass at the Notre Dame de la Paix Basilica. It is the largest Basilica in the world. After Mass, we were given a tour of the Basilica setup for the delegation.



At 2:00pm the delegation was received by the Secretary of the Houphouet-Boigny Foundation for Peace Research (UNESCO Site) where we toured the facility that included history of the Country based on the Presidents.



At approximately 5:00pm the delegation departed for Abidjan.

The Departure of the U.S. Delegation

On Monday morning the officers of the GLCI-PHA had a wrap up breakfast meeting prior to the delegation from Florida returning back home. PGM Wilbert Curtis' flight was scheduled for 10:30pm Monday night so time was spent in leisure, preparing for the 21-hour trip back to Texas.

GM Metan and G Secretary Koffee visited with me and thanked me for coming and representing the Grand Lodge of Texas as they constituted their Grand Lodge. GM Metan presented me with an African tribal horse tail and the gavel that was used to constitute the MWGLPH of Cote d'Ivoire. The gavel will be placed in the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum at the Grand Masonic Temple in Ft. Worth, Tx.



One might ask what is the significance of the establishment of the MWPHGL of Cote d'Ivoire for the MWPHGL of Texas and PGM Curtis? Why was it important to attend the consecration and constituting of this Grand Lodge?

Back in 2011, several brothers of Cote d'Ivoire contacted me and ask that we assist them in setting up a Prince Hall Affiliated Lodge in Cote d'Ivoire. They wanted to be part of Freemasonry that was organized by men of color for men of color instead of a lodge established and controlled by the French Grand Lodge. They heard of Prince Hall Freemasonry and wanted to be a part of it. They showed their sincerity about it by a delegation traveling to Texas and the Grand Masonic Temple in Ft Worth, Tx. The story of the Texas Prince Hall Grand Lodge involvement can be found in "[The Phylaxis Society Magazine VOL. XXXIX No. 3, Third Quarter 2012](#)" magazine, and MWPHGL of Texas website <https://www.mwphglotx.org/grand-lodge-information>: "The TPHFM Volume 2 – Issue 07 – Summer 2012" and "The TPHFM Volume 3 – Issue 08 – Fall 2012".



I would like to end this with an excerpt from the "Investiture Speech of TRF Louis Metan TRGM – GLPHHCI (Most Worshipful Louis Metan, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge Prince Hall Cote d'Ivoire).

"Prince Hall's descendants understand us. They are named in order of historical evolution of our institution: Most Respectable Brothers Wilbert Marice Curtis, Anthony Stafford, Walter Gulley Jr., and Jeffery G. Jones. Each of them played an important part in the advent of our young institution. Grand Master Wilbert Marice Curtis received us well and protected us like eggs under the wings of the mother hen. And, in his wisdom, he taught us something precious: "There are companions for a moment and there are life time companions. "I was a companion for a while." But, for us, he is our forever companion because we owe our birth to him. I told him that "we won't do anything without you and the stone you consecrated has not yet been laid. Come so that the "Ark of the Covenant" finally finds its Temple. Receive our infinite gratitude". So mote it be.



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



RESOLUTION

November 18, 2023

SUBJECT of RESOLUTION: To extend congratulations from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand of Cote d'Ivoire.

SUBMITTED TO: The Honorable Louis Metan, Most Worshipful Grand Master and the Brethren of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Cote d'Ivoire.

BY: The Honorable Michael T. Anderson, Most Worshipful Grand Master Jurisdiction of Texas

Whereas, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas has a rich history dating back to its humble beginning on August 19, 1875 in Brenham, Texas; and,

Whereas, on February 11, 2012, the ceremony granting the Dispensation to Roots Lodge was held at the stately Parliamentarians Hotel – Yamoussoukro in agreeable to Masonic customs and traditions in due and ancient form by Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis and delegation of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas; and,

Whereas, on June 22, 2012, ROOTS Lodge conducted the opening ceremony in due and ancient form of the 137th Grand session of the Grand Lodge; and

Whereas, on June 23, 2012, a charter was issued to Roots Lodge No. 656, setting it to work as a regular constituted Lodge and set Silence Lodge to work under a dispensation; and,

Whereas, on January 17, 2013, the charter of Roots Lodge No. 656 and the Dispensation for Silence U.D. Lodge was regrettably and officially arrested allowing the two lodges to continue their work under the protection of The Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge of Florida; and

Whereas, on November 18, 2023, 6023 A.L. The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Cote d'Ivoire has reached the coveted status of being constituted and consecrated under the authority of the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge of Florida, therefore establishing its own humble beginning as a Regular Grand Lodge;

Be It Resolved that the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas wholeheartedly expresses and extends congratulatory sentiments to the Most Worshipful Grand Master Louis Metan and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Cote d'Ivoire on its Day of Constitution and Consecration; and,

Be It Further Resolved that this Resolution will be read into the record at the 149th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas in show of solidarity and that the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas be one of the first Grand Lodges to extend our hand of mutual fraternal recognition to this Grand Lodge.

Given under our hand and seal of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas

Fraternally,

MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE
OF TEXAS AND ITS JURISDICTION
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

Michael T. Anderson

Michael T. Anderson
Most Worshipful Grand Master

Attested by:

Tracey T.C. Bittle

Tracey (T.C.) Bittle
R. W. Grand Secretary

Community Clean-up Action is more important than ever for, E.L. Downing Court #237, HOJ!

Story by Angela Colón-Allison, Most Ancient Matron

KILLEEN, TX – Noticing that littering is a problem is the first step in taking action to create a cleaner and sustainable city and planet. Partnering with the “Keep Killeen Beautiful” program, E.L. Downing Court #237, HOJ goes out to their adopted streets in their city in an effort to ensure that their city is looking clean and beautiful. In 2023, E.L. Downing Court committed to four debris pick-up sessions. During their visits, members collected waste including cans, wrappers, car parts, empty food items, cardboard, and other discarded items.

What was E.L. Downing’s goal in keeping their adopted area clean and beautiful? What benefits has it had for the organization? E.L. Downing’s goal is to maintain the cleanliness of their adopted streets, which is essential for creating safe and healthy communities. “Not only does it make our neighborhoods more attractive, but it also helps to reduce pollution and improve public health,” states MAM Colón-Allison.



Additionally, E.L. Downing court #237, is establishing and maintaining relationships with citizens who live in the neighborhood. As the Heroines clean the neighborhood, residents come out of their homes and ask about the purpose in cleaning up, and what organization they represent. The Court takes these opportunities to interact with residents and share one of the characteristics of a Heroine, which is Service. In addition, the Court will be out in the neighborhood multiple times in the year, and they are building cooperative and collaborative relationships with the residents in hopes that they will be motivated to keep their neighborhoods clean and beautiful.

Empty Place at the Table: E.L. Downing Court #237, HOJ & B.L. Seawood Chapter #86, OES

KILLEEN, TX – EMPTY PLACE AT THE TABLE is an exhibit that Honors the individual lives of victims who have died needlessly because of domestic violence. The Purpose is to raise awareness about domestic violence and the impact of this crime on families and our communities. E.L. Downing Court # 237, HOJ, jointly with, B.L. Seawood Chapter #86, OES displays an "Empty Place at the Table" exhibit at local Lodges and VFW locations in efforts of raising awareness to stop domestic violence. The EMPTY PLACE AT THE TABLE displayed from October 1-31, 2023.



“Work in the Community is an AMAZING thing,” states Senior Matron Juanita Davis-Ealy of E.L. Downing Court #237, HOJ. What other efforts did E.L. Downing Court make to raise Domestic Violence Awareness?

To kick off Domestic Violence Awareness month, E.L. Downing Court #237, HOJ along with their community came together for a powerful Domestic Violence Awareness Walk hosted by their local Killeen Police Department. Mayor Debbie Nash-King and Chief Pedro Lopez delivered heartfelt remarks, emphasizing the importance of solidarity and support in the fight against domestic violence. E.L. Downing Court, along with other Masonic organizations and citizens of the Killeen community gathered to march in an effort to stop domestic violence.

HEROINES ANSWER TO FOSTER CARE NEEDS: E.L. Downing Court #237, HOJ

Story by Angela Colón-Allison, Most Ancient Matron



This is what it's all about. When our community reaches out for help, a HEROINE answers that call!



E.L. Downing Court #237 has built a strong community relationship with the local Killeen Garden of Hope Foster Care (GOHFCS). On June 10, 2023, the court visited the Foster Care resource center where they cleaned and organized all items donated from the community.



On August 24, 2023, in less than 24 hours from the requested need, the court donated 140 jars of baby food, 258 diapers, and 2 snack packs. GOHFCS is very grateful and thankful for the support from E.L. Downing Court #237 HOJ.

Heroines of
Jericho
Regional
Workshops
2023



Heroines of
Jericho
Regional
Workshops
2023



HOJ Grand Youth Palace High School Graduates Making Their Mark on Their Future College Plans

Heroine Debra Johnson, MAM, Queen Assistant



Brianna McNeil

Attending:

Sam Houston State
University

Major:

Criminal Justice

Palace:

Walker's Village
Palace #28

Shumar Scott

Attending:

Universal Technical
Institute

Major:

Auto Collision

Palace:

Walker's Village
Palace #28





Tia Nash

Attending

Prairie View A&M

Major:

Pre-Nursing

Palace:

Margaret A. McDow

Palace #342

Amaya Hawkins

Graduate:

12/15/2023

Attending:

Stephen F. Austin
University

Major:

Bachelor of Science in
Interdisciplinary Studies
(Math Teacher)

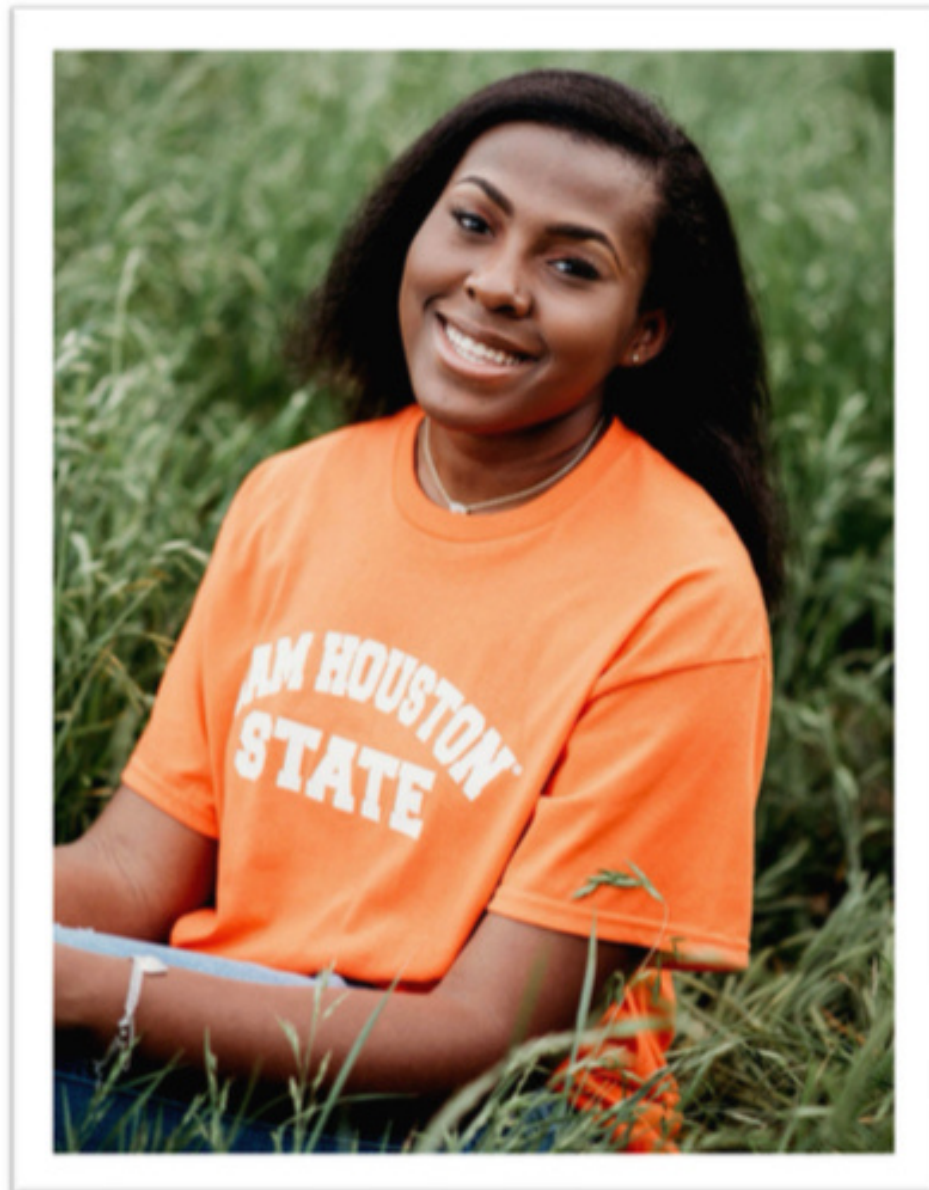
Palace:

Jr. Bethel
Palace #103



HOJ Palace Member Excels at Sam Houston State University

Story and Pictures by Heroine Debra Johnson, Queen Assistant
Edited by Heroine Yvonne Shuler, PhD, CP



Jada Johnson is in her second year of SHSU. She made the Dean's list this past fall semester. Jada is heavily involved in many organizations: NABA, Beta Alpha Psi, Alpha Lambda Delta and Kats for Christ, as well as an ambassador for the College of Business Administration. She was nominated for two school awards: Sophomore Student leader of the year and Excellence in Service in the College of Business administration.

Thank you for all the well wishes.

**Walker's Village Palace #28
Heroines of Jericho Cuney Court #231
Huntsville, Texas**

Willie's Peak Palace Steps Up in Service to Ambrister Court #17, HOJ

*Story by Heroine Annice Brawley, Queen
Edited by Heroine Yvonne Shuler, PhD, CP*

What a great experience! Willie's Peak Palace Princess, Stephanie Espinosa, volunteered to serve refreshments to the Heroines of Jericho during the Ambrister Court #17 business meeting on Saturday, January 27, 2024.





Frances Shivers Guild # 7 is Doing Things in Tyler, Texas.

Story by Sonya Baker, MSW, MS., Princess Captain

Tyler Texas –It all started over more than 17 years ago when Grand Princess Captain Emerita R. Lucille Samuel, Grand Commander Emeritus Tony Moore (RIP) and Rev. Mellie Arps (RIP) got together to establish an auxiliary among the ladies of the Knights Templar. Frances Shivers Guild #7 was established 07/07/07 and here we are, seventeen years later, still thriving in the city of Tyler, Texas. From the beginning, Frances Shivers Guild has been making an impact in the community of Tyler by adopting schools and establishing the Be a Blessing project in 2008. The first Princess Captain for the Guild was Frankie Granberry. Some of the Past Princess Captains have been PPC Myrtle Sherman, PPC Kharyn Floyd, PPC Marcel Merrill, PPC Teresa Neal, and PPC Shakendra Hawkins. The current Princess Captain is PC Sonya Baker. Most of these Past Princess Captains are still actively involved with the Guild. We have continued to increase membership yearly and



will continue to retain, renew, and reclaim.



Frances Shivers Guild had the distinguished honor of being named 2023 Guild of the Year by Grand Princess Captain Monique Calbert for outstanding service to the community. This past year, we have been actively involved in the community with several service projects such as donating household items, clothes, food pantry donations, or just being a visual influence in the community. We accepted the 2023 Guild of the Year at York Rite Weekend 2024 with pride and honor, and we will continue to be a positive influence in our community.

Frances Shivers Guild #7 was proud to have several members this year to be able to attend York Rite 2024. We also attended two Black History celebrations in February at two different churches.



History on our Name: Princess Frances Shivers was born Frances Linnie Burnes Shivers on June 6, 1883, in Missouri. She later moved to Dallas and lived there until her passing. She was a member of Prince Hall Order of Eastern Star and a Loyal Lady of the Dallas Assembly of the Golden Circle. She was asked by the Right Eminent Grand Commander J.D. Paley to create a female organization to the Knights Templar. This had been done in other states but not Texas. Lone Star Grand Guild was created in 1924. Princess Shivers was a member of Trinity Guild #1. Princess Shivers left this earth on October 21, 1969. Our namesake...our history.



Cuney Court #231, Heroines of Jericho Leads the Way in Service and Leadership in and Around Huntsville, Texas

Heroine Debra Johnson, Most Ancient Matron



Cuney Court # 231, Stars of Esther #87, and Fidelity Lodge #221 delivered beanies, throws, and socks to Huntsville Healthcare. Sisters and brothers working together for a great cause!



Cuney Court #231 was blessed during the Christmas holidays to be able to sponsor three (3) children from Huntsville, TX.



Annual Parade of Hats

Contestants



Winners





Heroines Fellowship





Cuney Court #231 attended Grand High Court 139th Grand Session and received the 2023 Court of the Year.



Heroines Yolanda Martin Scott, Terri Hagans, and Jada Johnson



Heroines Allyson Kelly, Terri Hagans, Jada Johnson, Rosalyn Kelly, and Most Ancient Matron Debra Johnson



The History of Love Chapel Lodge #558: “A Family Affair”

Story by Rodney K. Hartfield (558), District Deputy Grand Master

HUGHES SPRINGS, TEXAS – Love Chapel Lodge is the essence of the communal spirit of the families who comprised the Love Chapel Community in Hughes Springs, Texas in the county of Cass. This community, like many others, already had two established entities which were the same-named church and school. In most cases, both were housed in the same building. History will bear out that the separate entities of the church and school were located approximately one-quarter of a mile north by northeast of the present location of the current location of the Love Chapel Church which was founded in 1895 and named for the first pastor, Charlie Love. Inasmuch as this church was the epicenter of the Love Chapel Community situated southeast of town, it was only natural that it (the church) should serve as base of a fraternal order of local men under the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas. With the establishment of the lodge, the Love Chapel Community would have the third point of the community triangle critical to develop, maintain and to sustain many other communities of its type in America.

This group of men, [fathers and sons, cousins, in-laws, outlaws and friends] would unite under a pledge to make good men better and solidify the community as the first line of defense against any and all that threatened the sanctity of family and community. Many of the founding members, if not blood related, were related by marriage. Many of which still have relatives in the lodge to this very day.

- Charlie Peppers – First Worshipful Master
 - Joe D. Beard (son in law)
 - Jimmie L. Birdine (son in law)
 - John H. Brannon (son in law)
 - Norris Brannon (first cousin)
- Ausbon Wesley Willis – First Senior Warden
 - Herbert Willis (son)
- Johnson McCollough (father)
 - Jack McCollough (son)
- Wesley L. Cheatham
 - Joel “J.C.” Cheatham (brother)
 - Osley Dee Cheatham (brother)
 - James Thomas “Tom” Cheatham (son)
 - Norris Brannon (son in law)
 - John Henry Brannon (brother of Norris)
 - Henry R. Brannon (first cousin of brothers, John Henry and Norris Brannon)
- Ollie Hawkins
 - Jimmie L. Birdine (brother in law)



While maintaining the secrets of masonry, their mission which involved being of exemplary character and demonstrating the utmost brotherhood and integrity was established daily!

Records indicate the Warrant to establish a lodge in the city or Hughes Springs, Texas, county of Cass of Texas or within five miles of the same was granted on Friday, June 19, 1925 establishing Love Chapel Lodge with the number designation of 558 with Charlie Peppers to be the First Worshipful Master, Ausborn W. Willis as the First Senior Warden and Linton S. Stephens as the First Junior Warden. The remainder of the petitioners were:

Arby Alexander	J.D. Beard	J.L. Birdine	H.R. Brannon
J.H. Brannon	Norris Brannon	J.C. Cheatham	J.T. Cheatham
O.D. Cheatham	W.L. Cheatham	Cleveland Harris	O.L. Hawkins
Bent Irving	Jack McCollough	Ermon Rockwell	Harrison Royal
J.W. Royal	H.B. Willis		

This distinguished group of community leaders would eventually build a meeting and gathering place within yards of the north side of Love Chapel Church but immediately south of the church cemetery. This edifice was a two-story rectangular wooden structure whose lengthwise dimensions were from east to west. This building remained until the early 1970's.

In the 1970's, founding Brother, Ollie L. Hawkins, would become the Worshipful Master. Henry "H.C." Peppers, son of the first Worshipful Master would continue to grace the role of the 558 until his death in 2011. Founding Brother, Arby Alexander, would have a son, Arby Alexander Jr. who would become a member and officer of the lodge. Founding member J.L. Birdine's nephew, James Denmark, who remains on the role was lodge secretary for over 15 years. Brother Denmark is the only lodge member who was raised in the old lodge hall shown in the photo. Founding Brother Wesley Lee "Wes" Cheatham would have a son and great grandson to lead the lodge as Worshipful Masters, Cleartis B. Cheatham, and Rodney K. Hartfield, respectively. Cleartis' masonic career would include a stint as Grand Tiler for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas. Rodney is currently a District Deputy Grand Master for District One.

As the number of Prince Hall Masons in East Texas declined, so did the memberships of neighboring lodges who began to merge with Love Chapel Lodge. In the 1970's, Rocky Springs Lodge located in the Warlock Community on F.M. 729 in Marion County also merged. Some of the members included Tinzer Morrow and Louis Stanton (deceased). Later, Grimfield Lodge #444 located in the Hopkins-Hill Community of Lake O' the Pines merged with. Henry "Bo" Hopkins continues to be a member. Additionally, Mt. Moriah Lodge #294 of Avinger, Texas would also consolidate. In 1974, the Lodge had a membership of 35 Brothers. With the death of Past District Deputy Grandmaster Michael King of Golden Compass #60 in Pittsburg, (Camp County) Texas came another merger in 2023.

The current masonic roster of Love Chapel Lodge is proudly comprised of the following Brothers:

Marvin Anderson	Antwone Castle	James Denmark	Willie Wright
Rodney Hartfield	Billy Hashaway, Jr.	Billy Hashaway, Sr.	Shaquille Ransom
Debron Hatten, Jr.	Nathaniel Henderson	Orlando Henderson	Branden Sells
Jimmie Hock	Carl Holloman	Henry Hopkins	Demond Wilson
Terence Mathis	Terrance Menafee	Tinzer Morrow	

Each and every one of us are welcoming our Centennial Celebration next year as another opportunity to tell the community and the world that Love Chapel Lodge #558 is still a viable and solvent mainstay for Prince Hall Masonry in East Texas.

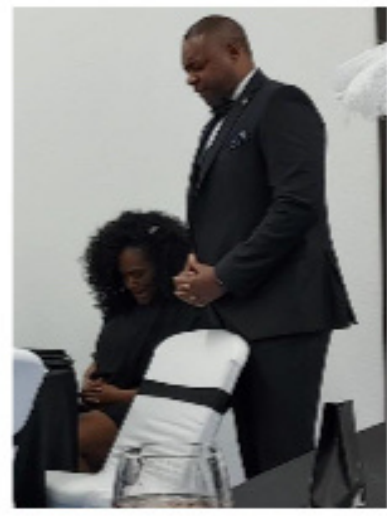
St. James Masonic Lodge No. 71 of Temple Texas Recognizes Past Masters and The Work of The Lodge with a Past Masters Ball

PGM Wilbert M. Curtis, Treasurer, St. James Lodge No. 71

Temple, Texas – On December 2, 2023, after a long year of completing and moving into the new Lodge Hall, St James Lodge No. 71 ended the year with its The First Annual Past Masters Ball. Proceeds from the Ball go toward the building and scholarship funds.



(Pictured Front Row, L. to R. Treas. PGM Wilbert Curtis, JW. PM Benny Fleming, WM Gaylon Sandles, SW PM Will Tower, Sec. PM Bill Moore Sr., Back Row, PM Marvin Yarber, PM Karl Briddell, PM Jesse Vazquez, PM Rickey Phillips, PM Ralph Godwin, PM Patrick Rayson, Sr.)



The Master of Ceremonies for the event was PM Bill E. Moore, Sr. Music was provided by our very own Bro. Barron Lowe, aka "D.J. Up Rock", and invocation was offered by Bro. Torran Peterson. The meal was catered by George Bell Catering out of Waco, Tx. The Hall was most eloquently decorated by Mrs. Renee Sandles and Co.

Special guests included RW Grand Secretary T.C. Bittle, MEGHP Michael Berry, District Deputies, PM Vandal Adderley, PM Victor Wiggins, our very own PM Tommy Levi, Worthy Matron, Sis. Jerri Hopkins of Shiphrah Chapter, OES and MAM, Sis. Jean Pierre, Rising Sun HOJ Court, to name a few.

Also in attendance was CIC Gregory Benton of Ed Blair Consistory and EP Marvin Yarber of V.L. Busby HRAM Chapter.



Attendees of the ball enjoyed a social hour, brief program, dinner, music, words from each Past Master, roses were presented to the ladies and a drawing for a prize by V. L. Busby HRAM Chapter No. 147.



Each of the eleven active Past Masters dating back to 1990, including PGM Wilbert Curtis, the senior Past Master, was given an opportunity to present the accomplishments of the Lodge during their tenure as Worshipful Master. PM Benny Fleming was named Master Mason of the Year. All Past Masters and members of the Lodge have participated in the building of the new Lodge Hall.

In 2018, the city of Temple, Tx declared eminent domain on the lodge hall property and an additional plot of land, thereby leaving the Lodge without a building to meet. This impacted not only the Lodge but the other Temple Masonic Family Bodies that met in the building. The brothers of St James Lodge who had not known a time in the past 68 years to be without a lodge hall to meet in decided to rebuild on property adjacent to where the previous lodge hall set. Our motto was, "When given a lemon, make some lemonade".

So, like industrious bees, we began the work of rebuilding a lodge hall from the ground up. Knowing that in today's economy, the building had to be able to provide revenue from other sources other than Masonic members' dues and assessments. The building had to be flexible enough to be made available for rental to the public for meetings, special events and occasions. PGM Wilbert Curtis, PM Bill E. Moore, Sr., PM Benny Fleming, and committee members came up with a design to accommodate those activities. It was understood that the hall would not have permanent stationary Masonic stations and places but be portable enough to have a meeting and within four hours be able to convert it into a banquet hall or an auditorium.



Other features of the hall in addition to the main lodge hall are a small meeting room and kitchen. Food can be served buffet style from the kitchen or set up in the hall itself depending on the size of the event.



This Ball sets the tone for the next year's work and service. Thanks to the entire Temple PHA Masonic Family, community we serve and all who supports our work!

Leora O' Guild No. 35 Makes a Mark in the Capitol City

Story by Princess Gwen McGee



The Oasis at Austin Nursing Home Visit Dec 2023

Holiday Stocking Stuffers filled with Socks, T-shirts, Word Search, Puzzle Books, and treats.



Princess Captain Betty Sanders, 1st Lieutenant Polly Emerson, Secretary Latrice Davis, Special Deputy Diane Hill, and Treasurer Gwen McGee

W. R. Conley Commandery and Leora O' Guild partnered with staff Jason Zenn of Running Brushy Middle School Food Pantry for the kids over the holiday break and their families.

W. R. Conley Commandery donated: 4 cases of Ramen noodles, 11 jars of spaghetti sauce, 13 spaghetti noodles, gravy packets, mac n cheese, cereal boxes, and hamburger helper meals.

Leora O' Guild No. 35 donated: \$100.00 in gift cards made by Princess Secretary Latrice Davis.



1st Lieutenant Polly Emerson, Princess Captain Betty Sanders, Darnell Morris Eminent Grand Prelate, School Staff, and Past Grand Princess Captain Latrice Davis



Mr. Jason Zenn, Food Pantry Coordinator Darnell Morris Eminent Grand Prelate, Past Grand Princess Captain Latrice Davis, and Princess Captain Betty Sanders

Walker's Village Palace #28 Shines Brightly in Huntsville, Texas

*Story by Heroine Debra Johnson, Queen Assistant
Edited by Heroine Yvonne Shuler, PhD, CP*



2023 1st Place Grand High Court
Scholarship Recipient Shamur Scott
Grand Queen Kharyn Floyd
2023 Duke Grand Youth Palace/Grand
Chief Marshall Bruce Johnson



2023 Duke Grand Youth Palace Bruce
Johnson

Walker's Village #28



Celebrating Coastal Regional Meeting



Walker's Village #28
Community Service with
Roxie Douglas Learning Center



Our very own Walker's Village #28 Bruce Johnson attended the 2024 Annual Black & White Ball hosted by Fidelity Lodge #221.



Grand Chief Marshall Bruce Johnson
Grand Master Michael T. Anderson

The Lone Star Grand Guild Holds Its 94th Annual Grand Conclave

Story by Monique Calbert, GPC

Happy New Year! Praying that 2024 brings more blessings and opens doors for each of you!! From Princess Monique Calbert, Grand Princess Captain.

The 94th Annual Grand Conclave was a great success and very well attended. Xiomara Guild #5 warmly welcomed all Guilds and guests to Spring, TX. This year was very special because we celebrated 100 years of service. Below are some highlights of a great 94th Annual Grand Conclave. It was very successful and informative. Planning is under way for the 95th Annual Grand Conclave and all Guilds and guests can't wait.



Grand Princess Captain Calbert alongside Right Eminent Sir Andre McGaughey, Sr., Hon. Past Grand Commander and Grand Royal Advisor to the Grand Guild, governing the proceedings of the 94th Annual Grand Conclave

One of the favorite highlights was the Queen's Contest, the winner of which was Princess Jacquetta Jackson of St. Cecil Guild #2 in Fort Worth, Texas.



Frances Shivers Guild #7 was recognized as the Guild of the Year and PC Sonya Wilkes was recognized as Princess Captain of the Year.



Other priceless moments from the Grand Conclave:



Amethyst Court #9 Makes an Impression in East Texas

Story by Sonya Baker, MSW, MS., Royal Grand Trustee #1

TYLER, TEXAS - Four years ago, nine ladies got together and stated that they wanted a L.O.C.O.P. Court in the East Texas area. On February 29, 2020, Grand Royal Perfect Matron Emerita R Lucille Samuel and the Grand Officers of the Margaret A. McDow Grand Court of the Ladies of the Circle of Perfection traveled to Tyler, Texas and opened Amethyst Court UD. In the following year, they received their Charter with the number designation of 9. Their first Royal Perfect Matron was Royal Matron Sonya Baker. COVID-19 set in and



became a history-changing force in the humble beginnings of the Court. Throughout these last four years, the Court lost one Charter Member, Royal Matron Kelly Pinke, to COVID. The Court met via Zoom during the pandemic. Amethyst #9 has had two successful Coronation Sundays which were well attended by several Grand officers. Coronation Sunday is celebrated on the third Sunday in September, the celebration of the Margaret A McDow Grand Court Ladies of the Circle of Perfection being chartered in Texas.



Amethyst Court #9 has continued to grow. As of this writing, the Court has initiated five new Royal Matrons. The members continue to make an impact on the Tyler, Texas community by participating in various community service projects such as donating clothes and household items to an organization that helps with domestic violence in the community. For the last four years, the Court has made it a tradition to serve Thanksgiving Dinner at the Salvation Army before sitting down and enjoying Thanksgiving dinner with loved ones. The Court volunteers at local nursing homes, providing them with needed items at various times of the year, as well as

participating with local churches and providing volunteer services when needed.

This year at the York Rite Weekend, Amethyst Court #9, Margaret A. McDow Grand Court, Ladies of the Circle of Perfection, had the distinct honor of being awarded Court of the Year

2024. There were six Royal Matrons in attendance at the Grand Assembly this year. Amethyst Court #9 has the honor of having two Grand Officers, Royal Past Perfection Matron Sonya Baker, Royal Grand Trustee #1 and Royal Past Perfect Matron Shakendra Hawkins, Royal Grand Trustee #3.

I continue to have tears of joy at the success and progress of Amethyst Court #9. The Court shines on and continues to be an impact to the community. I speak for Amethyst Court #9 when I quote Maya Angelou: *"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive: and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style."*



Magnolia Court #28 Heroines on Duty

Sonya Wilkes Most Ancient Matron – Magnolia Court

El Paso, TX The mission of the Heroines of Jericho is to spread charity, promote sisterly/brotherly love, and encourage peace, harmony, and goodwill among people. The Heroines and Knights of Magnolia Court #28 are currently engaging in friendly social activities and charitable works in the Sun City. Our religious beliefs continue to be centered around church services that provide opportunities for fellowship with our fellow brothers and sisters. Magnolia Court#28 has recently collaborated with the Stars of the Sun OES #6 for the annual Palm Sunday service, which was held at the Fellowship of Love congregation led by Pastor Mozell Nervis. Additionally, we also attended service with the members of Shiloh Baptist Church.





"Breaking Chains, Rebuilding Lives:"

Magnolia Court is always excited to announce our annual barbecue chicken dinner sale that will support our community. Every year in May, during the weekend of Mother's Day, we organize a chicken dinner sale to raise funds for our charitable work to help break the chains of Domestic Violence. Our Knights grill hundreds of pieces of chicken, and the Heroines serve over a hundred plates. This event is not only an opportunity for us to raise funds but also a chance to get together and continue our great work of giving back to the community.

MAGNOLIA COURT #28
HEROINES OF JERICHO
ANNUAL BARBECUE
CHICKEN DINNER SALE
MAY 13, 2023
12-6 PM
DONATION \$12.00
9922 COLETTE STREET
EL PASO, TX
915 276-6650



It's Not Christmas until the Grinch arrives. Magnolia Court and the YWCA Transitional Living Center organized an Annual Christmas party for both kids and parents. The event started with a pizza party followed by the main attraction, a traditional pinata. The Grinch was the target, and everyone had a blast taking their swings. The YWCA El Paso del Norte Region's Sara McKnight Transitional Living Center provides a crucial lifeline for women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. A significant number of TLC residents are survivors of domestic, sexual, or other forms of violence.



Grand Session Fun

A group of Heroines from Magnolia Court participated in the Grand Session, joining in all events from the Matron's March to the scholarship luncheon. The gathering was an excellent opportunity to meet and socialize with Heroines and Knights from all over Texas. At the 139th annual session, the 25th Grand Most Ancient Matron was elected, and she is from Magnolia Court #28 in El Paso, TX.



Magnolia Court #28 proudly displayed their unwavering support for the brave heroines who have survived breast cancer. In El Paso, the Relay for Life event provides an opportunity for survivors and their families to honor those who have passed away and celebrate those who have overcome the disease. We participated in the Relay for Life event at Burges High School in El Paso, TX. We walked with two brave heroines in the Survivor's Walk and donated to the American Cancer Society to aid in the search for a cure. As a powerful symbol of our support, we all wore pink to our monthly meeting.



As we move into 2024 the Heroines and Knights of Magnolia Court #28 will continue to be on duty in the Sun City.

A Memorable Delegation Visit to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Arkansas

P.M. Joe E. Scott, Jr., MPM, MSCIS, MWPHGLOTX



Great Country of Texas, Houston, TX – Welcome to The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas newsletter. Here we sharing the remarkable experience of being part of a delegation visit to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Arkansas on February 22nd thru 24th. This journey offered a unique opportunity to immerse ourselves in the traditions and works of Prince Hall Masonry from a different jurisdiction.

The Arrival and Welcome:

Arriving at the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Arkansas filled us with anticipation and excitement. The warm reception and formal introduction to the craft in the State of Arkansas set a positive tone for the visit. The Grand Body was a beautiful site to see in all of its allegory.

Welcoming Delegates:

Delegates from various regions were greeted with hospitality and respect, fostering a sense of camaraderie and unity within the Masonic community. The hospitality extended to us was truly remarkable, reflecting the values of brotherhood and unity that are at the heart of Prince Hall Masonry.

The Official Works:

- Grand Lodge Proceedings:

Attending the official works of the Grand Lodge provided insight into the governance and rituals of Prince Hall Masonry in Arkansas. The solemnity and precision demonstrated during these proceedings

highlighted the dedication of its members to the craft. It was inspiring to see the rituals and ceremonies carried out with such precision and reverence, reaffirming our shared bond as members of the craft.

- **Ritual Demonstrations:**

Witnessing ritual demonstrations allowed delegates to observe the unique practices and symbolism inherent in Prince Hall Masonry. These immersive experiences deepened our understanding of the rich heritage and teachings passed down through generations.

Themed Western Events

Entertainment and Fellowship:

After the Grand Sessions, delegates were treated to themed western events that combined entertainment with fellowship. The vibrant atmosphere and camaraderie among attendees created lasting memories and strengthened bonds within the Masonic fraternity. It provided a delightful opportunity for fellowship and relaxation, as we immersed ourselves in the rich culture and traditions of Arkansas. From cowboy hats to line dancing, it was a truly enjoyable experience that brought us closer together as a delegation.



Cultural Exchange:

Participating in themed events provided an opportunity for cultural exchange and appreciation of diverse traditions within Prince Hall Masonry. The blending of different cultural elements added depth and richness to the overall experience. The Cement of Brother Love prevailed that weekend.



Conclusion:

The delegation visit to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Arkansas was a truly enriching and memorable experience. It offered insights into the diverse practices and traditions within Prince Hall Masonry while fostering camaraderie and unity among delegates.

FAQs:

1. What is Prince Hall Masonry?

Prince Hall Masonry traces its origins to African American Freemason Prince Hall, who founded the first lodge of black Freemasons in North America in the 18th century.

2. What is the significance of a delegation visit?

A delegation visit provides an opportunity for Masonic brethren from different jurisdictions to connect, share knowledge, and foster fraternal bonds.

3. What are Grand Lodge Proceedings?

Grand Lodge Proceedings refer to the formal meetings and rituals conducted by the governing body of a Masonic jurisdiction, where important decisions are made and rituals are performed.

4. How do themed events contribute to the Masonic experience?

Themed events offer a unique way to celebrate Masonic traditions and foster fellowship among members, enhancing the overall Masonic experience.

5. What can delegates expect from a visit to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Arkansas?

Delegates can expect a warm welcome, engaging proceedings, cultural exchange, and memorable experiences that deepen their appreciation for Prince Hall Masonry.



77th Texas Council of Deliberation & 60th Texas Council of Assemblies was held with Remarkable Success.

P.M. Joe E. Scott, Jr., MPM, MSCIS, MWPHGLOTX



Houston, TX - The recent convening of the 77th Texas Council of Deliberation and the 60th Texas Council of Assemblies, hosted by Douglas Burrell Consistory #56 and Assembly #56, was nothing short of a resounding success. Held from February 29th to March 2nd, 2024, these events brought together Masons from across Texas and beyond for a weekend of fellowship, education, and celebration.

The councils kicked off with a solemn and symbolic walkthrough of opening and closing the Lodge of Perfection, setting the tone for the enlightening sessions to come. Attendees were guided through the intricate rituals, reinforcing the importance of tradition and unity within the craft.

Throughout the event, lectures on leadership were delivered, offering invaluable insights into personal and professional growth. Notable lectures were **KCCH, Leadership** and **Walking the Camp** with the session being led by the Illustrious Overseer Victor Wiggins.



Notably, the lecture by Past Grand Master Curtis on the Knight Commander Court of Honor (KCCH). He shed light on the privileges and opportunities afforded to both 32nd Degree and 33rd Degree Scottish

Rite Masons through membership in KCCH, inspiring attendees to aspire to greater heights within the fraternity.



CIC Joe Scott's lecture highlighted and emphasized: **Don't let your attitude dictate your aptitude.** The significance of maintaining a positive attitude and how it can impact one's aptitude in leadership and development was greatly demonstrated through the examples of Moses and the Israelites. His demonstration of how their attitude force them to walk 40 years in the wilderness on what could have taken 40 days. It was a powerful reminder of the importance of mindset in achieving success.

The Grand Council, opened by Douglas Burrell Consistory on Friday, March 1st, marked the official commencement of the grand sessions. Delegates from various jurisdictions, including Florida, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Mississippi, were warmly welcomed to Spring, TX, where they participated in discussions, deliberations, and fraternal exchanges.

On Saturday morning, both Councils attended the memorial services presented by Douglas Burrell Assembly. During this time the remembrances of our Fraters and Sisters who has moved on in time and iniquity was performed. The sisters did a great job in their performance of the ceremony, as all looked on in silence and observation.



A highlight of the event was the generosity displayed during the sessions. More than \$7,000 was raised and awarded in scholarships to high school graduates with promising futures. This act of philanthropy underscores the commitment of Masons to supporting education and nurturing the minds of tomorrow's leaders.

The councils concluded with a grand banquet, where attendees came together to celebrate the bonds of brotherhood and honor the achievements of deserving individuals within the fraternity. The awards ceremony served as a fitting conclusion to a weekend filled with camaraderie and enlightenment.



As we reflect on the success of these councils, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Douglas Burrell Consistory #56 and Assembly #56 for their exceptional hospitality and dedication in organizing such a memorable event. Their efforts have truly enriched the Masonic community and strengthened the spirit of Freemasonry in Texas during this year's Council of Deliberation and Assemblies.

Fraternally yours,
Joe E. Scott, Jr.
Commander in Chief



TEXAS COUNCIL OF DELIBERATION



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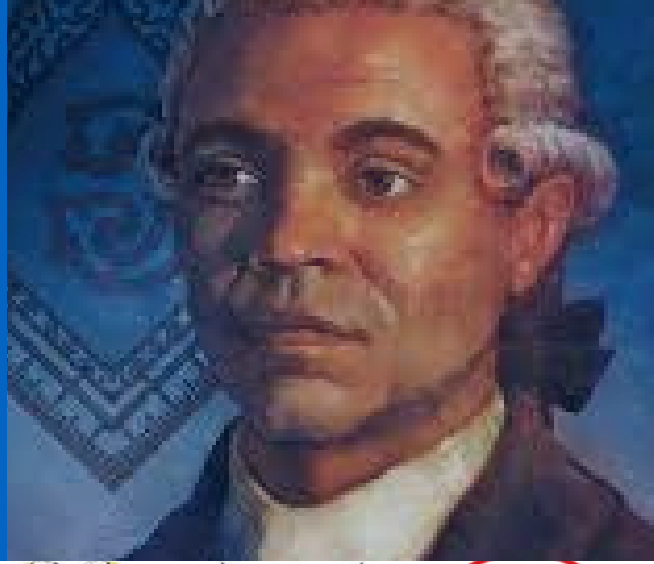
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AUGUST 20, 1875

STONE LAYED

JUNE 23, 1986

