

## OCTOBER 27 2012 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ADDRESS



To all Sisters and Brothers, Matrons and Masters, Appointed Officers, Heads of Houses, Elected Officers, Past Grand Officers, Grand Patron and Grand Worthy Matron.

Dwight Barnett  
Most Worshipful Grand Master

GOOD MORNING,

I want to thank each of you for taking time out of your busy schedule to come to the Organizational Meeting. It has been several years since we have had this meeting. I thought it was time to start it again as a tool of information, communication and planning. I hope you think so too. I would like to apologize for the date of the meeting Next year the meeting will be in September probably the Saturday before Prince Hall Day. There are just too many Balls, Banquets and College Homecomings after that date to plan this meeting.

### BLOCK DATES

As of today the Block dates are as follows (read the block dates form).

As you just heard the Desert Conference has been inserted back onto the block dates. The Deputy of the Desert Noble Jerrod Evans and I have been in communication about this date. We came to the agreement that when the letter of non-recognition of the Shrine had been rescinded. We should desert conference back on the block dates.

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March 16th 2013 will be the Far-Western District meeting. This date will most likely be the testimonial date for Past Grand Master Thomas S. Loving. Please mark this date on your calendars, so we can honor PGM Loving with a nice turn out.

March 21 - 24, 2013 will be the Mid-West Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Matrons/Grand Patrons held in Louisville Kentucky at the Galt House Hotel. If you can come, support, volunteer or help with this Major event. The Jurisdiction of Kentucky Thanks you. Please see the local conference coordinators. Deputy Grand Master Jonathan Bryant, Grand Conductress Felica Ballard, District Deputy Grand Master Ricky Moore and District Deputy Grand Matron Carla Thomas.

### 2013 GRAND COMMUNICATIONS

The 2013 Grand Communication will be back in Lexington, Kentucky at the Crown Plaza Hotel. The date will be July 27 - August 1. The date will be a week earlier than the constituted date. The constitution says "This Grand Lodge shall meet in Annual Communication on the first Tuesday in August or within seven (7) days before or after, each year, and shall continue for not more than two (2) additional days". We choose the earlier date to help with the back to school issues and hotel availability.

In the future for our hotel site locations we will seriously need to be aware of the lodging cost to stay in certain hotels that can do all the things that we ask for. The Bowling Green Hotel and Convention center can accommodate we need. But, the lodging rate will be above \$100.00 per night plus tax. That is why I didn't continue negotiations with bowling green, I need to know that the membership is ready to support that change. A lot of the Hotels are going through upgrades, with upgrades come higher lodging rates. The cabinet wants to plan future communication locations in advance. In order to do this we may be staying at locations that have higher prices than we are used too.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership is the biggest issue facing our organization. The Grand Lodge has less than eleven hundred (1100) members in the Jurisdiction to date.

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The question then is "What do we do to increase membership?"

The Amnesty program is still in effect until December 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. It may or may not have been effective. After the current Amnesty program deadline is passed. We will look at revamping the Amnesty program.

We have to catch up with the technology of today to advertise ourselves in the community. Use our web site to advertise our activities, events and functions to let non-members know what we are doing. We must promote our organization as one they will want to be a part of.

Among our families and friends we know someone that we think would be a good member. Invite them to our events so they can see what we do. Let them see our good works, let them see our fraternal bond, let them see how we love one another. They just may want to join us if we present ourselves in a favorable light.

K.O.P.

The youth of any organization is the future of that organization. We have to invest in the Knights of Pythagoras. Not just monetary, but with time and energy. But, saying that the K.O.P. must support itself too. The local Councils must raise money to offset cost of attending the Grand Communication. I know that this will be extra work on the Mentors and Lodges, but it has to be done. The Grand Lodge cannot continue paying van rentals and room lodging and have only have ten (10) Knights come to the Communications.

I was so disappointed in the number of Knights this year at the Communications. We have six (6) active Councils. I am challenging each Council to have ten (10) Knights each from their Council at the 2013 Communications.

I have had several conversations with the State Director about all these issues and he understands how I feel. Get it done.

K.O.P. totals - 18 (10 knights and 8 mentors)

Diamonds totals - 70 (55 diamonds and 15 guardians)

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## TEMPLE

There is a lot of work and effort getting done at the Temple. But, there are so many issues with the building. The repairs to the roof are working great. The next phase is the electrical inside the building.

I hope and pray we can make some inroads with the historical society and receive monies to fix some of the issues.

Temple Director Bro. George Abell and Grand Junior Warden Johnny Ware are doing a fine job and have a plan for the Temple. It just takes money.

## STATE OF THE CRAFT

We have a Grand Lodge membership of around eleven hundred (1100) members. We have forty-seven (47) lodges with several Lodges having three (3) or four (4) members only.

We are at a turning point in Prince Hall Masonry in Kentucky right now.

“How do we turn it around?”

You have heard the sayings “If you keep doing what you have always done, then you will keep getting what you have always got”. The other one is “What is the definition of boarder line crazy? Keep doing the same thing, but expecting a different result”.

We can no longer keep doing the same things expecting a different result. We must be more forward thinking, planning years ahead.

If we say we can't solicit members then we must be more stylish and sophisticated in advertising ourselves and our causes to entice someone to join our organization.

Our Grand Communications should also be informative and educational. We need workshops, lectures and leadership classes. All reports that can be comprised before the communication should be put into the registration packets allowing the membership to have them when they arrive. We should have copies of the current constitution and bylaws, current ritual and current procedures manual at the Communications for sale to the membership.

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We may have to consider letting the other Houses host their own Grand Communication themselves. We may have to consider moving our Grand Communication to the week end. Financially we are coming to an impasse by doing things the way we have always done them.

In five (5) years this Prince Hall Grand Lodge will celebrate one hundred fifty (150) years of existence in the Jurisdiction of Kentucky. The planning for this auspicious event should start now.

### SUGGESTIONS

1. Upgrade our advertising toward membership into the twenty first (21<sup>st</sup>) century everything we do we should have a way of promoting membership.
2. Continue to support the Grand Lodge fundraiser Program of one-hundred (\$100.00) per year per person and four-hundred (\$400.00) per year per Masonic House for four years.
3. Establish a book of reports for placement into the packets of all those reports that can be done prior to Grand Lodge. Establish a turn in date for them.
4. Start a ten (10) year plan for the Grand Lodge. First Idem Grand Communication locations for 2014, 2015, and 2016.
5. Start planning the 2017 one-hundred fifty (150) year anniversary of Prince Hall Masonry in Kentucky in the City of Louisville, Ky. ASAP.

My Theme - "Planning for Change"

My Motto - "Stay a little Green so you can Grow"

My Color - "Baby Blue or as I like to call it Obama Blue"

My Song - "The Lord will make a way Somehow"

My Scripture - "Romans Chapter 12 verses 1 - 5"

I Beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through

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the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office. So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

To each of you my Brothers and Sisters I say thank you

///SIGNED///

Dwight Barnett  
Most Worshipful Grand Master