

SEPTEMBER 7, 2013 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ADDRESS



To: All Elected Grand Lodge Officers, Grand Worthy Matron and Grand Patron, All Elected Grand Chapter Officers, All Past Elected Grand Officers, All Heads of Houses, All Appointed Officers, Matrons, Patrons and Masters, Sisters and Brothers.

GOOD MORNING,

I want to thank each of you for taking time out of your busy schedule to come to the Organizational Meeting. The Organizational meeting is a tool for information, communication and planning.

The 2014 meeting will be in September the Saturday before Prince Hall Day. This day will be the standard meeting date for future Organizational meetings.

BLOCK DATES

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

March 12 - 16, 2014 will be the Mid-West Conference of Grand Masters and Masons and Grand Chapters and Eastern Stars. It held will be hosted by the Jurisdiction of Ohio in the city of Cincinnati. It is close enough for us to take a good size delegation. I hope we can make that happen.

2014 GRAND COMMUNICATIONS

The 2014 Grand Communication will be in Louisville Kentucky at the Galt House Hotel July 26 - 31, 2014. 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.

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. As I stated at our recent Grand Communications if we want to be

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treated first class then we need to go to first class places. In order to do this we may be staying at locations that have higher prices than we are used too.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is still the biggest issue facing our organization. We have a combined total of about two-thousand (2000) members of Eastern Stars and Master Masons in the Jurisdiction to date.

“TO BE ONE, ASK ONE”. This phrase I am asking the membership to put on ever ticket, flier, pamphlet, program, ad and anything that you may publicize to the community.

We have to catch up with the technology of today advertising ourselves in the community. Using the social media outlets our web site, Facebook, LinkedIn to let non-members know what we are doing and how to become a member. We must promote our organization as THE one they will want to be a part of. “To be one, ask one”.

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.” To be one, ask one”.

Knights of Pythagoras

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. The KOP must support itself too. The local Councils must raise money to offset cost of attending the Grand Communication.

The KOP of Kentucky will be changing in the near future. At the 2013 Conference of Grand Masters. All of the Jurisdictions voted to break ties with the Supreme Council Knights of Pythagoras and that the COGM start their own KOP program. All Jurisdictions agreed to operate their own KOP program independently until the COGM establishes its own SCKOP.

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PARKLAND MASONIC TEMPLE

There is a lot of work and effort getting done at the Temple. The renovation work is coming along well. There have been several accomplishments and improvements. I hope you have noticed a few of them today. The parking lot will have new fencing in the near future. Bids are being taken right now.

We ask that the membership continue to support the four (4) year one-hundred thousand dollar (\$100,000.00) a year fundraiser. That each member in the Jurisdiction donate one-hundred dollars (\$100.00) per year for four (4) years and that each Grand Masonic House donate three-hundred dollars (\$300.00) per year for four (4) years.

Temple Director Bro. George Abell and Grand Junior Warden Johnny Ware are doing a fine job and have a plan for the Temple. Please continue to support them with your volunteerism.

GRAND LODGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Grand Lodge Scholarship program has been revamped and now will be a part of the T.I.G.E.R. Foundation. This we hope will give us more stability and funding. There has been a committee created to award the scholarships. The committee members are DDGM Bro. Ronald D. Lewis, PGM Sister Donna Newsom Hawkins, WM Bro. Scott Ferguson, Bro. Lonnie Golston, Sister Felecia Ballard and Bro. Delano Massey. I am endorsing the T.I.G.E.R. Foundation program of asking each member of the Foundation to donate one-dollar (\$1.00) per week equaling fifty-two dollars (\$52.00) per year. I am asking any member of the Jurisdiction to match the donation of one-dollar (\$1.00) per week for fifty two (52) weeks. Members can make donations by making the checks payable to the T.I.G.E.R. Foundation.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is the weak link in our chain. We must communicate better, starting from the Grand Lodge to the Local Lodge. Recently there was a letter sent to the District Deputies to have certain Lodges in their District to send an updated roster to the Grand Lodge.

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The reason for the roster is so the Grand Lodge can send communications to each member in the Jurisdiction. Eventually there will be a newsletter created to send out. We are hoping that direct contact with the membership will help with fundraising, Grand Communication attendance and information awareness. Please send in your roster to the Grand Secretary if you have not already done so.

It has been brought to my attention to re-announce our policy of hazing during initiations in the Lodge. Hazing is strictly prohibited during initiations. Don't get caught hazing there will be consequences. I am charging all Past Masters to address any hazing issues in the lodge.

STATE OF THE CRAFT

Last year at the 2012 Organizational meeting I stated my theme was "Planning for Change" and I am still following that theme. If we fail to plan, then we plan to fail. With change comes a cost. That cost is sometimes slow or immediate depending on the circumstance.

Increased membership will be slow and sometimes not much at all. The reward for your effort will not be taken lightly by this Grand Lodge. I am sent dispensation request for initiating, passing, and raising more than the constitutional number a lot. So, I know the effort is there. We must be stylish and sophisticated to entice someone to join our organization.

Change in the Grand Communications will be slow in some areas and immediate in others. The Grand Lodge voted and passed to lower the required age admission from twenty-one years old (21) to eighteen years old (18) at the 2013 Grand Communications. This was an immediate change. The recommendation to do a feasibility study on moving the Constituted Annual Communication days to Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday was not approved and will have to be redefined, redesigned and resubmitted. This will be a slow change.

At the Grand Communication this year I stated that if we wanted to be treated first class, then we need to go to first class places. Knowing this may cause a hotel reservation increase. We will still negotiate the best rate for our membership. Also, with first class hotels come higher meal, banquet room and service cost. We will still negotiate the best rate, but

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foreseeing an increase. There will be an increase in the Grand Communication registration from eighty-five dollars (\$85.00) to ninety-five dollars (\$95.00). This will keep us ahead of the inflation cost for a number of years.

At the Grand Communications this year we had a total attendance of around three-hundred thirty (330) members. I stated earlier that we have a total membership of around two-thousand (2000). That equates to sixteen and one-half (16.5) percent of our total membership at the Grand Communications. I would like to see that number at twenty-five percent (25%). How do we do it? I know increases in reservations and registrations will deter some, but not all. This is where we have to make our Grand Communication GRAND. Not just something to go to, but something to look forward to. By having new ideas of Grandness and Greatness, moving to a week-end Communications, Workshop breakout sessions, Recognition of our Members good works. Changing our mentality from why should we be Grand to why should we not be Grand.

In closing I say to you.

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden. Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. GALATIANS CHAPTER 6 VERSES 1-10

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

Dwight Barnett, Most Worshipful Grand Master