



ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 2016

September 10, 2016

Grand East

1304 – 06 So. 28th Street

Good Morning,

First I want to thank everyone for coming to this organizational meeting. There are a lot of other places you could be this morning but you decided to be here and I thank you. I really think and hope that this meeting sets tone, the path and course that we as an organization want to travel on. It is up to us the members to make this organization the best that it can be.

Let's take a moment, a moment of silence for our Past Grand Master Pink J. Garner who we lost last Saturday and attended his home going service on yesterday.

Today will you hear some things and hopefully some of the things that are said and some of what you hear you will be able to apply it to your efforts to work hard for this Prince Hall Masonic organization.

We all know that this is a fraternal organization but also it's a professional organization. Fraternal in our tenets, our work and our beliefs, professional in the way we conduct our business, our attitudes, our demeanor and the way we present ourselves to the public. Let's have some pride. Pride in our dress, pride in our character, pride in our work and pride in our organization.

I know for a fact that there are members on both sides that are very disgruntled. So disgruntled to the fact while attending meetings, while still attending different functions, while still recommending and vouching others for membership, still talk down and negative about members and both organizations. If you are that member that continues to be that negative force I ask you to please stay at home. As we attempt to improve the overall quality of life of this organization we need everyone to be of a positive mindset as we march forward.

We as Prince Hall Mason's and Eastern Star in Kentucky have a unique opportunity to make a change, a change to improve this ancient and honorable institution. Not to change the principles of it but to improve the quality of life for the membership in this organization. As an agent of change, The Lord has sent me to change the attitudes and the mentality of the members of this organization. **WE MUST RESPECT** one another, **WE MUST CARE** for one another, **WE MUST BE COMPASSIONATE**, and you **MUST LOVE** the other members of this organization. The biggest thing is, you have to want to make a difference in your community, you, as a member of this organization should assist our distressed members and want to make a positive impact in some one's life. Charity begins at home so let's not forget about our members, or widows and orphans.

We must as an organization do a better job at building our brand. Building our brand is very important. Our community service work is one way to do that. We have to be more organized, our presentation has to be more organized and we must be more professional while in the community's eye. Community service work does not always have to be monetary it's better served doing community service hours. Building a better brand makes for a better recruitment tool. As a part of our brand building we as an organization will work with charities like the Crusade for Children and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Within the next year we will have a statewide day of community service. The success of this statewide event will require full participation. *We have to build our brand through more service and less rhetoric.*

There are no positions in this administration were anybody serves in name only. If you are a part of this administration you will have some responsibility. We will all work and when I say we I mean the elected cabinet., when I say we I mean anyone that has a appointed position in this administration, when I say we I'm talking about every WM's, when I say we I mean every warden and administrative officer of a subordinate lodge, when I say we I'm talking about every master mason in this jurisdiction. The only way that we as Prince Hall Mason's are going to grow and be successful is to put in the work.

The Knights of Pythagoras: Dr. Scott Ferguson as State Director and all of the other members have done a great job with building up the organization. They have done a great job with mentoring the young men statewide, but they need

every ones support. I am asking every subordinate lodge to continue to assist with recommending young men but I will be asking each and every lodge to give a small monetary donation to the Venerable Dwight Barnett Grand Council. You will receive more information.

The Tiger Foundation: This is the charitable arm of the Grand Lodge. Senior Grand Warden Johnny Ware, PM Jarold Jackson and the members of the board have worked very hard and have done some good things. Prince Hall Masonic Family of Kentucky that foundation belongs to us. The foundation has been laid. Everyone should do their part for the foundation to help make it a success. For years all I've heard was if we had we could do, if we had we could receive, well now we have, it's functioning and it's providing. But the foundation can do more with our help. I'm going to continue with something that PGM Pink J. Garner started a few years ago asking each member that received a tiger coin from him to donate one dollar a week which equals \$52.00 a year to the foundation. I am also asking each cabinet member and each appointed member and each lodge to donate \$52.00.

This year I will give a Grand Masters Achievement Award to deserving members. That award is solely based on the Grand Masters observation and knowledge of a member's compassion, knowledge and work within this organization. This year we will award a lodge of the year, master mason of the year and a deputy of the year. These awards will be given at grand session. You will receive the criteria for these awards.

The 150th Year Anniversary: The formation of the Grand Lodge by Mt. Moriah Lodge No.1, St. Thomas No.2 and Meriwether Lodge No.3 is upon us. A 150 year Anniversary for the Grand Lodge will only come around once in a lifetime while you are living. You have heard the Deputy Grand Master talk about some of the things that will go in throughout the year. I am asking you the members please participate, get on the committee, and bring forth some ideas forward. Let's make sure that we have a grand celebration for this grand occasion.

Amnesty Program: Recently I sent out a letter outlining the specifics of the program. From August to December 31, reinstatement for any member is only \$50.00. The lodge keeps the \$50.00. The lodge is not responsible for paying any assessments on that reinstated member until January, 2017. The secretary's of the lodges are responsible for going back 5 years of members that were dropped

and notify them about this program. This program has a dual purpose. If the lodges are able to get members to reinstate it will serve as a mini fundraiser and it will increase the overall membership of this organization. Now the deputies will be responsible for tracking the numbers. So please when they contact you give them what they ask for.

Midwest Regional Conference of Grand Masters & Masons, Grand Chapters and Eastern Stars held in Indianapolis, IN on March 16 – 19, 2017. More information will be forth coming once the MWPHGL of Indiana has the forms finalized. The Grand Worthy Matron and I would like for the members of Kentucky to attend and show your support.

Grand Master Invite and Souvenir Journal: Our constitution states to invite the Grand Master to an official function he must receive an official letter 60 days prior to the function. Email is not an official way of communication. An invitation received via email will only be accepted on if it has an official letter attached to it. If you have a function and have a souvenir journal there should be an ad from the Grand Master included. Upon request the Grand Secretary will provide an ad for your souvenir journal.

Correspondence: Reg. 94 states that secretaries SHALL read all official communications from the Grand Master and Grand Secretary in open lodge, promptly responding, always giving the name and post office of the lodge.

Leadership Training Academy: To improve the Masonic knowledge of our current and future leaders it is a must that we have a leadership training academy. The members and the officers should know the workings of the lodge. They should know when the assessments are due, they should know how much they pay per quarter for each member, they should know how to properly carry a motion and they should know every elected and appointed officers responsibilities. It is hard to watch some of our leaders travel all the way the EAST and they have any more knowledge then they had when they began their journey.

I will close with this. Everyone that is a member of this organization has some work to do. If you want the overall attitudes of the members to be better, we have some work to do. If you want public perception of the organization to improve we have some work to do and if you want the respectability and

credibility to improve we have some work to do and more importantly if you want your light to shine so brightly on this organization we have some work to do. So my brothers and sisters work with me in improving the brand and the quality of life in this Prince Hall Masonic Organization.

Fraternally,

Jonathan A. Bryant

Jonathan A. Bryant
Most Worshipful Grand Master