

THE COMPASS

3rd Edition of the Communication of the MWPHGL, F&AM

From the Desk of the Most Worshipful Grand Master

Greetings Prince Hall Family!

I want to begin this communication by saying "Thanks" to all of those that assisted in planning; supported; and attended our Annual Grand Communication in Bowling Green, Kentucky! Attendance at the 157th Annual Grand Communication was outstanding and we were able to conduct the business necessary to ensure that our organization thrives to implement the work of our vision.

***Our Mission:** Through the improvement and strengthening of the character of the individual man, Freemasonry seeks to improve the community, thus, it impresses upon its members the principles of personal righteousness and personal responsibility; enlightens them as to these things which make for human welfare and inspires them with that feeling of charity or good will toward all mankind which will move them to translate principle and conviction into action.*



Johnny L. Ware
52nd Most Worshipful Grand Master

157th Grand Communication Grand Master's Address

Annual Address

Honorable Johnny L. Ware, 33^o

52nd Most Worshipful Grand Master

Tuesday, 30 July 2024

Annual Address

Of the

Most Worshipful Grand Master

Hon Johnny L. Ware, 33^o

July 30, 2024

(Highlights)

To: RWDGM Anthony D. Harris, RWSGW Simeon Pullum, RWJGW Dennis Phifer, RWGT Garvin G. Hinds, RWGS Kevin L. Crittenden , MWPGM's , Visiting Brothers , Heads of Houses , Worshipful Masters , Past Masters , Wardens and Brethren, of this REMARKABLE Jurisdiction of Kentucky .

Good morning,

30 Psalm 1: I will extol thee, O Lord for thou hast lifted up, and hast made my foes rejoice over . I stand before you today as the 52nd Most Worshipful Grand Master of the most respected and honorable fraternity in the world. As we convene for this 157th Annual Grand Communication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F & AM of Kentucky, it is a great honor to be your elected Leader of this Jurisdiction.

According to Chapter IV , Section 1 of the Constitution Bylaws Regulations and Code of this Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge , which reads as follows : "The Grand Lodge shall meet in Annual Communication on the First Tuesday in August or within sevens (7) days before or after ,each year and shall continue for no more than two (2) additional days. "

Therefore, I, Johnny L. Ware, by powers vested in me, as 52nd Most Worshipful Grand Master, am obliged to ensure that all Master Masons pay Allegiance to this Jurisdiction and follow our LAWS . This obligation, I do not take lightly. As your elected Grand Master, I am no better than any brother sitting in this room. I am the Man that you saw fit to govern and carry the torch, as many have done before me .

Right Worship Grand Chorister Walter Kennedy please lead us in a song, as the Right Worshipful Grand Chaplin Shawn Davis approaches the altar to render a prayer.

During the past year several brothers have completed their journey to the land from whose bourn no traveler returns .

Mark Steele, Jr. No. 160 11/03/23

Lewis H. Wright, II No. 101 11/17/23

Redell Benton No. 5 10/18/23

Lamar Foster No. 160 11/28/23

Henry B. Ashby, Jr. No. 28 12/3/23

Robert Harrison No. 172 11/08/23

James Mosley No. 152 11/02/23

Robert C. Sherrod, Sr. No. 3 01/24/24

David M. Milton No. 145 01/20/24

Frank. E Austin No. 28 03/11/24

James Hocker No. 49 01/30/24

Ronald Parham No. 170 3/21/24

Charles Seewright No. 39

John M. Jackson No. 170 5/19/24

William Harris No. 8

Ronald Miller No. 120 09/20/23

I am the resurrection and the life saith the Lord he who believeth in Me, though He were dead yet shall he live ,and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die .

Midwest Conference of Grand Masters and Matrons and Patrons

The Midwest Conference was held in Louisville, KY from 4-6 April 2024 at the Galt House Hotel.

The President of Conference MWPG Aubrey Barlow (Illinois) conducted the meeting and also met with Committee Chairs on Zoom from October 2023 to April 2024 . The Conference was attended by Members of the following Jurisdictions , Illinois , Indiana ,Iowa , Kansas , Kentucky , Michigan ,

Minnesota , Missouri , Nebraska , Ohio and Wisconsin . Visiting Grand Master from Oklahoma MWGM Ronald Davie. The conference was attended by 647 delegates and 710 at the Banquet. The Elections were conducted and MWPGM Robert C. Newton (Kentucky) was elected President and MWGM Torres Beckley (Missouri) Vice President . The next Conference will be in Cincinnati, Ohio, March 2025, hosted by Ohio Jurisdiction, MWGM Robert M. Estelle .

Grand Masters Conference

The Grand Masters Conference was held in Charlotte , NC hosted by MWGM Dwight Thompson . The meeting was conducted by MWPGM Eugene Anderson, President (Indiana) . Highlights of the meeting: 1. MWGM's voted to remove Jurisdiction of Louisiana from Conference invading Jurisdiction by placing Lodges in other Jurisdictions.

2. The conference voted to remove jurisdiction of Arizona from the conference due to a Felony Plea by MWGM .

The next Conference will be in Nebraska in May 2025, hosted by MWGM Michael Wilcoxon.



157th Grand Communication in Bowling Green, KY

The 157th Grand Communication was a great success! The KY PHA Family would like to thank the leaders of Bowling Green for their support!

The Knights of Pythagoras at work!

The Knights of Pythagoras conducted their annual meeting at Grand Communication!

The Grand Master at work appointing Honorary Grand Masters

PM Edward Johnson Jr. of Industrial Lodge # 145, appointed Honorary Grand Master
PM Henderson Calvary #126, appointed Honorary Grand Master .
PM Simeon Pullum , Mammoth #104, appointed Honorary Grand Master

PM James Crawford , Braden #67, appointed Honorary Grand Master

From the Desk of the Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden

Greetings, my Brothers & Sisters of this great jurisdiction of Kentucky. My name is Simeon Pullum your Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden. I am very proud to serve YOU as humbly as I can, and The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of Kentucky. I am a proud Prince Hall Mason, and I serve with distinction, honor, and dignity in this role. With a deep commitment to the values of brotherhood, charity, and integrity, I take this position seriously in guiding our membership and supporting our Most Worshipful Grand Master the Honorable Johnny L. Ware, and this Most Worshipful Grand Lodge initiatives and its operations. Leadership extends

beyond administrative duties, as we actively champion the principles of brotherhood, charity, and personal growth. Achievements and Improvements should enhance our community outreach, successful events, and the ability to inspire and mobilize members towards common goals. I challenge each of you Master Masons, Eastern Stars and all other bodies that owe allegiance to this Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge to do better in these areas that further exemplifies the Prince Hall Masons' dedication to making a positive difference in the world.



Fraternally Thine,

Simeon Pullum 33^o

R.W. Senior Grand Warden Jurisdiction Kentucky

Who are Masons and What do they do?

A Mason, or Freemason, is a member of a fraternity known as Masonry. A Mason is a man who has decided that he likes to feel good about himself and others. He cares about the future as well as the past, and does what he can, both alone and with others, to make the future good for everyone.

What does a Mason do?

The Masonic experience encourages members to become better men, better husbands, better fathers and better citizens. The fraternal bonds formed in the Lodge help build lifelong friendships among men with similar goals and values.

Cecelia Dunlap Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star of Kentucky Inc., PHA

From the Desk of the Grand Worthy Matron

I greet you as the 52nd elected Grand Worthy Matron of Cecelia Dunlap Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star of Kentucky Inc., PHA. The honor and trust bestowed upon is not taken for granted. I will continue to strive for excellence, as I lead this organization to the best of my ability. I will continue to encourage the growth of all Eastern Star Chapters, as we continue to learn and practice the teachings of our order.

I would like to thank all brothers and sisters for your presence at the 129th Annual Grand Session. Because of you, a very peaceful, memorable and harmonious session will be marked in our hearts and minds forever. Thank you for accepting and embracing the challenge of changing our schedule and making it work for our good.

Thank you to the brothers who showed up to load and unload the U-Haul. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you to the brothers not pictured and the brothers who missed out this year, but will show up next year to join the KY Prince Hall Family Willing Works.

As members of the Order of Eastern Star, let us continue to broaden our ability to love and show love to each other and to the Masonic Family as we continue to strive to be more Dedicated, more Visible, more Accountable members of this Kentucky Prince Hall Family.

By God's grace and for God's glory,

Carla D. Goode. Thomas
Grand Worthy Matron



2024 Grand Worthy Matron's Address

Cecelia Dunlap Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star of Kentucky, Inc. P.H.A 129th Annual Grand Communication July 30, 2024 Grand Worthy Matron's Address

"I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me," Philipians 4:13 NKLV

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Kentucky, the 52nd elected Most Worshipful Grand Master Johnny L. Ware. To the Grand Worthy Patron, Michael P. Jordan, All Elected and Appointed, Present and Past Grand Officers, All Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, Officers, and Members of all Subordinate Chapters owing allegiance to Cecelia Dunlap Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star of Kentucky Inc., Prince Hall Affiliation.

Good afternoon:

In this privileged place, I am humbled and honored to stand before you as the 52nd elected Grand Worthy Matron. In this new dawn and new day, I have tried to encourage all members to take pride

in our work by knowing what's right, doing what's right and teaching what's right. Some of us have agreed to become more dedicated, visible, accountable members of this great order. There is still time and hope for us all. I thank God for the strength he has provided me to be prepared to lead and guide this Grand Chapter to the best of my ability. I could not have made it without him. I appreciate the opportunity to serve this Grand Body and all the support, cooperation and genuine love that you have shown me. Working together as one has proven 2023-2024 to be a very successful year for the Kentucky Prince Hall Family. We must continue to strive for excellence in unity and with humility. I still keep that extra pair of shades to share with the blinded, because shinning bright is what we all should do.

State of the Nation

As I think about the State of our Nation, I find myself absolutely astonished by what we are facing. I was only 5 years old when Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. Although I have little memory of that event, I never in my wildest dreams would imagine looking on social media and watching on tv the attempted assassination of a person running for President of the United States. Depending on who you ask, our nation is heading in the right direction or barely holding on at all. We survived an epidemic (Covid) that killed over 1 million people in this country alone, and with this in mind, our Nation stands strong but quite fragile. Yes, hate crimes plague this land in extraordinary numbers. Yes, the prices for food, gas, and other essentials are out of control. Yes, gun violence in our communities is absolutely outrageous, however, your Grand Worthy Matron is optimistic! I never thought we would see a black man (Barak Obama), serve as President of our country. I didn't think we'd see a black woman, Vice President Kamala Harris, sit in the 2nd highest political office in our land. I never thought we would witness our first black female Supreme Court Justice; Ketanji Brown Jackson serve in the highest court in the land, so again there is hope. Our Nation has historically been resilient in the face of difficult times and difficult seasons. Let's face it we survived 400 years of slavery, countless years of Jim Crow, and made great strides during the civil rights movement. This Nation continues to exist because many, not all, have learned the importance of sticking together even when we must agree to disagree. This Nation will continue to thrive if and only if we stand in solidarity for all that is good, right, and just. There is an old gospel hymn that simply says, My Hope is Built on Nothing Less Than Jesus' Blood and Righteousness; I Dare Not Trust the Sweetest Frame, but Wholly Lean on Jesus' Name. On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand All Other Ground is Sinking Sand." Hope is the only Option we have at this critical stage in our Nation's History. I encourage each of you to vote, keep hope alive, stay strong, and above all keep praying. I'm a living witness that God does hear and answer prayers.

State of the Order

We are still here! We cannot go another day without preparing, discussing and working toward the successful growth of our subordinate chapters. We can't forget the Past as we respect the present and look forward to our future. As we look at our past, 20 years ago our records show in 2004 we had 6 Districts, 39 Chapters and 1026 members. We currently have 5 Districts and 25 Chapters. We have a total of 482 Sisters and 96 Brothers giving us a total of 578 members. We began the year with the Most Worshipful Grand Master and I encouraging every member to bring in at least one member. This is an achievable goal that will quickly help our membership grow. When we grow, our Appendant Bodies will also grow. It's not too late, the year is not over. When we leave this Session we have work to do. I have said it before and I will continue to say it, we want and need to grow not just in quantity but most importantly, we want to grow in the quality of candidates we welcome to become a member and one day an officer among us. Our growth and our success are our responsibility.

Necrology

"When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am."

John 14:3 NLT. Since our last convening we have lost 15 members. Please continue to keep the families of those who have gone on to their celestial resting place, close and in your thoughts and prayers.

Copeland Grand of Diamonds

The Diamonds truly are our future. The Diamond Chambers are growing. We have inactive Chambers reopening and visible at this year's Session. Please support our future and the efforts of our youth. If you cannot donate your time, you can sponsor a Pizza Party, or purchase a ticket, you can encourage youth from your church or neighborhood to join the Diamonds. Where are our own children, grandchildren and great grandchildren? Are they members of the Diamonds? We must invest in the future of our youth and encourage them to join the Order of Eastern Star when they turn 18. The success of our youth depends greatly on the guidance and support of our subordinate chambers, and it does require some sacrifice.

Prince Hall Conference Of Grand Matrons and Grand Patrons Order of Eastern Star

May 15th – May 19, I attended the national conference. I was able to represent Kentucky by being appointed and serving as the Co-Chair of the Rules of the Day committee. I would like to thank Grand Worthy Patron Michael P. Jordan, Grand Associate Patron Marlon Bynum, PGWM Donna G. Newsome Hawkins, PGWM Ann G. Goode, PGWM Brenda Murphy and my Worthy Matron LaTonia J. Watkins for your attendance and support. The 2025 conference will be held in Omaha, Nebraska. The conference Ways & Means Committee is hosting a 2025 Diamond and Pearl/Gold and Silver, King and Queen Contest. We need one brother and one sister to participate in the contest. The entry deadline is August 1, 2024.

Midwest Regional Conference

The MWRC was held at the Galt House in Louisville, Ky. April 4-7, 2024. Members of the Order of Eastern Star showed up and showed out this year as we always do! Give yourselves a hand! Your contributions, attendance, and support were superb! We could not have done it without everyone. The 2025 Midwest Regional Conference will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio at the Hyatt Regency, March 13-16, 2025.

TIGER Foundation

Give yourselves another hand. With the generous donations of all chapters, lodges and the match of funds from the TIGER Foundation we were able to donate \$10,000.00 to WHAS Crusade for Children. This marks our largest donation since the effort began during the administration of Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, Jonathan A. Bryant. Great Job, Great Work! Let's try to match our giving next year or exceed our current record. Next year there are plans to attend and present the check during the Live broadcast. More details to follow.

Recommendation

1) I recommend that all Subordinate Chapters of Cecelia Dunlap Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star of Kentucky, Inc., Prince Hall Affiliation open in the Amaranth Degree, one month of the year, during the month of April.

Rationale: It is important to leave a lasting impression on a candidate during the conferring of the Amaranth Degree. It is impossible to leave a lasting impression when most members do not know how to properly open the Amaranth. Opening once a year in the Amaranth degree will create more knowledge, experience and a better understanding of the purposes and teaching of the degree. As I close, I leave you with this thought. Stars don't shine because they want to be seen. Stars shine because they are Stars. Alexander Den Heijer

By God's Grace and for God's glory,

Carla D. Goode Thomas

Grand Worthy Matron

Cecelia Dunlap Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star of Kentucky Inc. Prince Hall Affiliation



Past Grand Guardians

Past Grand Guardians, GWM Carla D. Thomas, PGWM Ann G. Goode and PGWM Donna N. Hawkins attending the 55th Annual Grand Session of Copeland Grand Chamber of Diamonds



Omega Grand Court Heroines of Jericho of KY

Visitation Of Grand Worthy Matron to Omega Grand Court Heroines of Jericho, of Kentucky



Grand Worthy Matrons Escorts

Grand Worthy Matrons Escorts, Annie S. Perry Grand Guild Heroines of Templar Crusade



Aurora #96

Sisters of Aurora Chapter No. 96-THE #1 CHAPTER IN THE JURISDICTION OF KENTUCKY



Behind the Scenes

Kentucky Prince Hall Family Willing Workers



OES Mission

Our Mission

As members of the Order of Eastern Star, our mission is to broaden our ability to love and show love to each other and to the Masonic Family. We will continue to learn and practice the teachings of the Order by letting our light shine through the Word of God, placed on the Altar and surrounded by the Five Heroines. They teach us the meaning of Honor, Dedication, Courage, Faith and Love for ourselves and others. That we may share Charity to everyone and the Community will know us by our Virtues.

2024 Calendar / Blocked Dates (Click Here!)

WORK CONTINUES AT THE TEMPLE



Repairing of Windows at the Temple

Work to repair our temple windows has continues!



Temple Under Construction!

The outside of the temple windows have been repaired and painted. We are currently repairing and painting the inside of the windows and then screens will be added to the outside of the windows.



Thanks for your continued support of our work on our Temple!

The repair of the temple windows is not cheap! We would like to thank all of those who have supported this window by donating and we would like to continue to encourage you to donate to this effort.

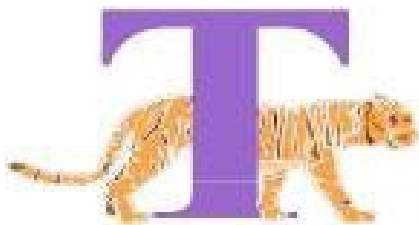


Tiger Foundation 2024.pdf

TIGER Foundation Annual Report (24-25)

[Download](#)

2.6 MB



TIGER Foundation Learning Hub Updates

The Tiger Foundation Learning Hub participated in the Jefferson County Public Schools Summer Backpack League. The Learning Hub provided academic and enrichment programs for 15 students this summer. The summer program was hosted



Pink J. Garner Tuition Assistance Recipients (24-25)

The TIGER Foundation awarded 34 \$1,000 tuition assistance scholarships this year! Recipients and TIGER Foundation Report can be located in the PDF provided above.



The Diamonds and Knights at Grand Communication

Thanks to all of the brothers and sisters that gave their time, effort, and energy to facilitating the Diamonds and Knights business/entertainment, during the Grand Communication!

in our Learning Hub from June 20th through July 12. The Learning Hub is now preparing for its afterschool partnership with Maupin Elementary. The Hub will host 10 students on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays from 4:30-6pm beginning October 15th.

The History of Prince Hall Masonry in Kentucky

HISTORY OF PRINCE HALL MASONRY IN KENTUCKY

Masonry among Negroes in Kentucky had its origin in the year 1850, in Louisville, Kentucky, when Reverend Bird Parker, pastor of Quinn Chapel A. M. E. Church and a number of other colored men, with Jesse Meriwether as their leader, met at his house on West Walnut Street, between Ninth and Tenth Streets. They had become interested in Masonry through contact with colored Masons who were on steamers plying between Cincinnati, Ohio, and Louisville, Kentucky. Their inquiry was how they might become Masons. After several meetings had been held, a pro tem body was formed.

The question was raised as to whether it would be safe for a lodge of colored men to be organized in the State. The question was discussed at length, and a vote taken whether the Lodge should be established in Louisville, or across the river in new Albany, Indiana. It was decided that New Albany would be the safer place for meeting at that time. This vote caused several members of the pro tem body to withdraw. Among that number was the venerable Jesse Meriwether, who, in later years became our first Grand Master.

A petition was forwarded to the Grand Master of Ohio for a Warrant. It was granted, and on June 12, 1850, in the city of New Albany, Indiana, Mt. Moriah Lodge No.1, F & A. M., was duly organized. The Lodge room was leased for three years from the Caucasian Masons, they having built a new hall and moved into it. Their furniture was also turned over to M. Moriah. For three years, the Lodge remaining at New Albany. The member labored under many disadvantages, such as crossing the Ohio River in skiffs at mid-night, sometimes amid high waters and heavy drifts, at the risk of their lives, and then walking five miles up to the city.

At the expiration of the three-year lease, the Lodge moved to Louisville, Kentucky. A house was rented from Washington Spradling, Sr., on Walnut Street, between Ninth and Tenth Streets. The roll of Mt. Moriah increased to over 100 members. Finally, the group divided and organized St. Thomas and Meriwether Lodges.

Among free Negroes of this period who were Masons and leaders in the churches, schools and various vocations were Jesse Meriwether, W. H. Gibson, John Evans, Washington Spradling, Berry Evans, Barlett Taylor, Green Smith, Henry Cousens, John Morris, Austin Hubbard, J. C. N. Fowles, and William Butcher. These men exercised precaution in a slave state and made great contributions to Negro fraternities and businesses among Negroes in the City of Louisville.

The advent of Masonry in Kentucky had many forebodings, but the lodges were not molested until 1869, about the time of "John Brown's Raid". The excitement that prevailed in Virginia extended to Kentucky, and all assemblies of free Negroes were closely watched. At one meeting of a Lodge,



held secretly, the police made a raid and ordered the men jailed. However, the police judge was quite “understanding” and dismissed the case.

On August 16, 1866, under a Warrant granted by the Grand Lodge of Ohio, with Richard H. Gleaves as Grand Master, and still a member of the National Compact, the Grand Lodge of Kentucky was organized by Mr. Moriah, St. Thomas, and Meriwether Lodges. Jesse Meriwether was elected Grand Master, and Andrew Shafer, Grand Secretary. This action was taken under the National Compact. The Masons of Kentucky established State Sovereignty in 1875.

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Kentucky has prospered from its humble beginnings. We now boast of sixty nine subordinate Lodges; a one hundred unit apartment complex in Frankfort, Kentucky’ the Grand East in Louisville, Kentucky and printing equipment located therein which will make us self reliant in accomplishing our time honored goals.



Dwayne Roberts

Dwayne is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters