

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania
4301 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19140
215-457-6110 215-457-1970 fax

October 14, 2008

Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master
Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden
Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden
Past Most Worshipful Grand Masters
Right Worshipful Elected and Worshipful Appointed Grand Lodge Officers
Worshipful Masters, Senior Wardens, Junior Wardens, Past Masters, Officers and
Members of all Lodges Encompassing and Obedient to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania

Greetings:

PROCLAMATION NO. 1

Know ye by these presents, pursuant to Article XIII, Section 1 of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania and by the authority in me vested, do hereby proclaim the following:

Acting in accordance with the legislative procedures of due process of election and being in conformity to the ritualistic procedures of this Jurisdiction, I Charles A. Bishop hailing from Ionic Lodge #112, will always, to the best of my ability, discharge the duties of my office as provided by the written provisions of our Masonic code, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations with equal regularity and justice, at the inherent responsibility of the Office of Grand Master.

Realizing the importance of exercising prudence in all deliberations, I will consult and confer with the line and fiscal officers, the esteem Past Most Worshipful Grand Masters, and other well informed brothers in those areas and issues that may confront this office, when they display a willingness and availability for consultation.

As Grand Master, I am thoroughly cognizant that I must endeavor to fulfill every facet of the charge that I have received and will serve and perform the duties of Grand Master for all Master Masons throughout this Jurisdiction. I will be ever ready to uphold the principles, preserve the landmarks and ancient charges of the order and maintain the dignity of the office in the exercise of my own personal demeanor in all places and at all times.

Directive No. 1

Membership – Obtain, Reclaim and Maintain

It is apparent that our ability to maintain our current membership, along with attempts to bring into the fold old and potential new members is greatly effected by the Seven Hundred Billion Bail-Out that has a trickle down effect. “NO GOLDEN PARACHUTE” in sight for Middle Class America. So I will extend the maximum \$50.00 reinstatement fee along with the payment of six-month dues, until March 20, 2009 a review to analyze the effect gained from the previous year will be conducted. Positive community involvement, and creative marketing will hopefully allow us to obtain new members, and sound economic management will assist in maintaining current members.

Directive No. 2

Open Door Policy

Leaders in our affiliated, appended, concordat and adopted bodies of the Prince Hall Family have taken strong measures to assure that the candidates that were admitted into the order were received and welcomed properly. I’ll take a snip quote from Past Grand Master Cleveland Brunson, “Now that you have them, what are you going to do with them”. I will extend the open door policy until March 20, 2009 and request that the administrative head provide this office with a comparison of the membership gained before and membership gained currently and if possible the percentage brought in without affiliation. I also will strongly recommend that the units perform their own work, thereby strengthen our members in their ritualistic knowledge.

Directive No. 3

Proficiency Certificates

Masonic Knowledge is imperative for the survival of Prince Hall Masonry, advancing too fast through the ranks of the several bodies of the order, will offer nothing towards your becoming a well informed mason. In an effort to assure the proficiency level of all “Prince Hall” fraternal bodies of this Jurisdiction, any candidate seeking admission of advancement must present a proficiency certificate issued by the Grand Lodge reflecting that he has been financially on the rolls of a constituent lodge for a period of no less than one year and in possession of lesser degrees of progression for advancement. Also being mindful, of your fifth and sixth furthermore.

Directive No. 4

Right of Visitation

As our Fourteenth Land Mark affords us the luxury of fraternal intercourse with its' dictates, and many of our lodges have long standing relations with lodges in our sister jurisdictions and enjoy the recognition visits with our Right Worshipful counterparts. Yet many are still strangers with the brethren in their own jurisdiction. All constituent lodges are to affiliate themselves with a lodge outside their district, preferably greater than fifty miles away.

Directive No. 5

Training Seminar

On Saturday November 1, 2008 the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge will conduct a leadership training seminar for Appointed Grand Lodge Officers at the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge Masonic Center (Patton Campus), Elizabethtown, PA Worshipful Masters, Senior Wardens, Junior Wardens, Secretaries, and Treasurers are invited to attend and participate. Lodge officers planning to attend should notify their District Deputy Grand Master not later than Friday, October 24, 2008. All parties needing overnight accommodations for Friday October 31, 2008 are to notify Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Leonard A. Heard.

All officers must become familiar with our computerization system, of which the Secretaries and Treasures of our constituent lodges will receive training that will assist them with connecting into the system.

Directive No. 6

Conferring Symbolic Degrees

Conferring the Symbolic Degrees of freemasonry is a serious and solemn ceremony and should be performed in a manner that is impressive to the mind of the candidate as well as those in attendance and that reflects credibility upon the craft.

Lodges of this Jurisdiction shall confer symbolic degrees strictly as provided for in the ritual of this Grand Lodge. Only the ritualistic work as authorized by the Grand Lodge may be performed or rehearsed in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. No inclusion of any parts of the ritualistic work of other units outside of the ancient craft degrees will be exemplified, performed, or rehearsed in conferring symbolic degrees in this Jurisdiction.

Directive No. 7

Founders Day Services

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is blessed with a rich heritage of our founding fathers in Masonry, Richard Allen founded Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1792, and Absalom Jones erected the African Church in 1794 later becoming St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. In 1797 the first African Lodge of Philadelphia was warranted, Absalom Jones was installed as Worshipful Master by Grand Master Prince Hall of Massachusetts. In 1815, with the formation of the First Independent African Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Absalom Jones was elected its First Grand Master and Richard Allen its first Grand Treasurer.

I am hereby establishing Founders Day Services to be held on the Third Sunday in February to be observed throughout the Jurisdiction. The first district to be held at St. Thomas Church with the host lodge being Lemuel G. Googins Lodge # 129, altering year at Mother Bethel Church and Richard Allen Lodge #30 as the host Lodge, pending permission being granted by both entities, the second through the eleventh districts will follow the festive day area assembly, and directed by the Worshipful District Lecturers to select the Church and host Lodge. The Worshipful District Lecturers will be the officers of the day assisted by the Grand Chaplains if applicable. If favorably received, legislative motions will be applied to add Founders Day as one of our Festive Days.

Directive No. 8

“Holy Week” Observance

It is herewith directed and ordered that under No circumstance will a non-religious social function be sponsored or participated in by an adopted, affiliated, appendant, or concordant body or unit on a grand or subordinate level of the Prince Hall Masonic Family of Pennsylvania, during the observance of “Holy Week”, commencing 12:01 AM (Palm Sunday) April 5, 2009 through 12:00 Midnight, (Easter Sunday) April 12, 2009.

Directive No. 9

Festive Days Observance

The following provisions will be adhered to in the observance of Masonic Festive Days in this Jurisdiction. There will be no public offering taken at any festive day or any other service of the Masonic family

No Masonic functions shall be held on these festive days by any Masonic body except by the written permission of the Most Worshipful Grand Master. All requests are to be received by the Grand Secretary not less than 30 days prior to the date of the event. ALL APPOINTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE at festive days unless called away by their usual vocation or a bona fide emergency.

All festive days will be celebrated on an area level { weather permitting). The areas are defined as:

Philadelphia	1 st Masonic District
Eastern Area	2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th Districts
Central Area	5 th , 6 th , and 9 th Districts
Western Area	7 th , 8 th , and 11 th Districts

The Festive Days are:

1. Saint John the Evangelist Day

On December 21, 2008 (or the date nearest the 27th), exclusive of Christmas Day (December 25th) and New years Day (January 1st). A service befitting the significance of the occasion should be in a church. However, owing to the heavy Christian calendar at this time of year, it may be observed at a lodge hall or suitable building. Worshipful District Deputy Grand Masters will be the Officers of the Day.

2. Saint John the Baptist Day

Service is to be celebrated on Sunday, June 28, 2009 owing to Fathers Day on the 21st, It shall be held in each defined Area of the Jurisdiction in such manners that will contribute to the glory and benefit of the fraternity. Worshipful District Deputy Grand Masters will be the Officers of the Day.

All master masons will be regaled as master masons except those master masons who are presiding officers of other Grand Bodies or their representatives. Fraternal recognition and courtesies will be extended as to proper seating and processional position.

3. Prince Hall and Americanism Day

This festive day will be observed in each defined Area on Sunday, September 13, 2009 as this observance is in honor of the founding father of freemasonry among men of this Country of African descent, we Prince Hall Masons should celebrate this occasion with zeal and enthusiasm that is second to none.

All branches of the Masonic Family, both male and female, will be extended a cordial and sincere invitation to participate in this service, magnificently attired in the regalia of their respective orders, by the issuance of a proper dispensation authorizing the same. . Worshipful District Lectures will be the Officers of the Day.

Directive No. 10

Attire for Officers

Unless specified otherwise in writing, attire for Grand Lodge Officers at Mid-Year and Annual sessions will be tails. All committee members may wear usual Masonic dress. Officers (Worshipful Masters and Wardens) of constituent lodges may wear their collars at both sessions. Occasions not covered by the constitution must be by dispensation of the Worshipful District Deputy Grand Masters.

Attire for Grand Lodge Officers who are Officers of the day during festive days shall be tails; all others should wear regular Masonic dress.

Summer Dress during this Administration commencing after Memorial Day, May 30, 2009 and ending Labor Day September 7, 2009 for all SOCIAL FUNCTIONS will be White Coat (not off-white, ivory or egg white), black pants, white shirt, black bow tie, black socks, and shoes. (The Most Worshipful Grand Master reserves the right to alter this dress for certain officers at his discretion, in such cases the specific officers will be notified).

Directive No. 11

Protocol Manual

The manual on protocol as legislated by this Grand Lodge will be adhered to and will supersede all procedure directives in conflict from any and all fraternal bodies. Only by written consent from the Office of the Grand Master will any provision be set aside, even temporarily.

2009 Mid-Year Session

The 194th Mid-Year Session will be held on Friday March 20th and Saturday March 21st 2009 at the Sheraton Reading Hotel, 1741 Paper Mill Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610 Additional information will be disseminated at a later date. This announcement is made to allow sufficient time for the craft to plan ahead and to include their family in the recreational part of the weekend.

Directive No. 12

Prince Hall Family Festive Days

As members of the Prince Hall Family it is important that not only should we support the several bodies of our Masonic family, by assisting in demonstrating a strong support of each other. Knowing the dates in advance, would eliminate events being scheduled that may cause a conflict.

Deborah Grand Chapter, O.E.S – Annual Session, July, 2009

Esther Day, May 24, 2009

Most Excellent Grand Chapter H.R.A.M – Grand Convocation October 26-28, 2008
Zerubbabel Day, June 2009,

Most Ancient Grand Court, H.O.J – Annual Session October 28-30, 2009 Palm
Sunday Services, Sunday, April 5, 2009

Prince Hall Grand Council R&S M – Annual Session June 2009 Adoniram Day
Services Sunday March.2009,

Esther Grand Court, L.O.C.O.P - Annual Session June, 2009 Services of
Remembrance Sunday, March, 2009

United Grand Commandery, M.E.K.T – Grand Conclave August 2009 Passion Night
Service April 10, 2009 (Good Friday), Ascension Day Service May 2009

Most Royal Grand Court of Cyrenes – Annual Session August, 2009 Thanksgiving
Services April 2009

United Supreme Council, A.A.S.R. – PA Council of Deliberation & PA State Grand
Assembly Annual Sessions November 7-9, 2009

Imperial Council A.E.A.O.N.M.S & Imperial Court Dts. Of Isis – Annual Convention
August, 2009 Jubilee Day (Nobles) June 7, 2009 Thanksgiving Day Services (Daughters)
May 17, 2009

This Proclamation Number 1 contains the Statement of Policy and Administrative
Directives and is hereby given under my hand and seal of office, this 14th Day of October
2008 A.D. ; 6008 A.L At The Grand East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Brothers of the
craft having due and timely will take heed and govern yourselves according

Charles A. Bishop, 112
Most Worshipful Grand Master