

**MOST WORSHIPFUL
PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
JURISDICTION OF GEORGIA**

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February 25, 2009

Proclamation 01-09

To: Deputy Grand Master, Douglas Jones, Past Grand Masters: Willie L. Williams, Benjamin Barksdale, and Neal A. McQueen, All Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers, All Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens and Brothers

To: Grand Worthy Matron, Marilyn Moore, Grand Worthy, Patron Marvin Knight, All Past Grand Worthy Matrons, All Past Grand Worthy Patrons, All Elected and Appointed Grand Chapter Officers, all Worthy Matrons, All Worthy Patrons, All Past Worthy Matrons, All Past Worthy Patrons, All Officers and Members of the Order of Eastern Star.

Greetings, it is my sincere hope that all is well with each of you as we deal with the economy and the stress we sometimes face. Take comfort in knowing that our Heavenly Father is still in charge and He promised He would put no more on us than we can bear.

Call to Grand Session 2009

Our Grand Session this year will be held in Savannah, Georgia at the Savannah Marriott. At our Mid Winter Meeting it was mentioned there was a hotel in Savannah with rates much lower than the rates we were quoted at the Savannah Marriott. It has come to my attention that this was a hotel with 25 rooms and the amenities did not compare with what we are getting at the host hotel. In spite of this, we appealed to the host hotel for a lower rate but, because we are under contract, our rate will not be reduced.

On Tuesday, June 16, we will have workshops for District Deputies and Worshipful Masters; Wardens; Secretaries and Treasurers. On Tuesday evening, the Chapter of Sorrow and the Queen's Extravaganza will be held. The official opening of the Grand Session will be Wednesday Morning, June 17.

Advance registration is the same as last year; \$75.00 and late registration will be \$100.00. Registration forms are enclosed. Advance registration will be from now to May 31, 2009. Brother and Sisters please register as soon as possible to ensure proper financial planning for our session. We will have to spend more in Savannah than we would in other locations, but again, there will be no increase in registration cost. There will be a social outing but it will not be our usual picnic.

District Deputy Hymes and the entire Savannah District are working diligently to make this session our best Grand Session ever. There is a lot of history in Savannah; in fact, our Prince Hall Family was started in Savannah, so please take time to tour the city while there.

Mid Winter Meeting 2009

Hats off to Deputy Middleton and the Macon Masonic District for a very successful Mid Winter Meeting. At the meeting a discussion was held relative to the life members of the OES having the option of not paying the special assessment for the building fund. After considering this matter and conferring with the executive board; I have concluded that a Life Member is a Life Member. OES Life Members have the same option as to paying the Building Fund or not.

Our Directory

According to Sister Parks and Brother Eury, the response has been tremendous for our directory. If you have not listed your business, please do so.

Our Grand East

We now have our facility rented out to a church for services on Sunday and Wednesday. Bids are now being accepted for installation of the kitchen. Once the kitchen is installed we will be renting the facility out for weddings, family reunions etc; If you have not visited the new Grand East, you owe it to yourself to do so.

330 Auburn Avenue

330 is the meeting place for the Atlanta Lodges and Chapters. Renovations are still being made, and our building is looking great. The Chairman of Trustees, Brother Driver and Past Grand Master Barksdale along with other brothers and sisters are doing a super job at 330. In addition, during M.L. King weekend Delta Airlines, Inc., and Hands on Atlanta volunteers painted the interior of our building. I am in the process of getting our property on Auburn as well as our new Grand East exempted from property tax. I shall keep you posted on my progress.

Building Fund

Building Fund fee for **new members** (brothers) is \$115.00 for the first year; the second and third year the fee is \$80.00. Building Fund (sisters) is \$105.00 for the first year; the second and third year the fee is \$70.00. This includes the regular building fund and the special building fund.

Our Brick and Wall of Fame Campaigns are in full swing. Forms are available at the Grand East for both projects. Remember, members as well as non members can participate in this effort.

Prince Hall Weekend

Our Prince Hall Weekend will be September 11th through September 13th in Rome, GA. The family picnic will be Saturday, September 12th, and our Prince Hall Day Celebration will be on Sunday, September 13th. The advance registration fee is \$25, and on site fee is \$35. Advance registration will be from July 1, to August 11, 2009. The Host Hotel is the Comfort Suites, telephone # (706) 232-6055 and the overflow hotel is the Hampton Inn. The room rate is \$75 at each hotel. We have a block of rooms at this price, but please make your reservations no later than August 11, 2009. You may call the host hotel to reserve your room at either hotel.

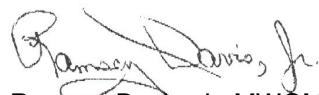
Come prepared to fish, play volleyball, play cards and pitch horseshoes. Deputy Morrison and the Rome District have vowed this will be the best Prince Hall Weekend ever!

On Tuesday evening, February 24, 2009, President Obama addressed Congress. He spoke of the economy and what we must do now to get the country back on track. The President went on to state Americans are not quitters. Then he said something that really hit home with me and I quote, "The cost of action is great but the cost of no action is even greater."

Yes, the cost of the action we have taken relative to our Grand East is great and perhaps even a hardship for many of us; but, my Brothers and Sisters if we had continued to do nothing the cost would have been even greater. This generation of Prince Hall Masons and Eastern Stars in Georgia will go down in history as the generation that put the Georgia Prince Hall Family back on track.

Finally, my Brothers and my Sisters let us faint not in our good works, for in due season we will reap. Our next level is at hand.

Fraternally,



Ramsey Davis, Jr. MWGM