



THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, JURISDICTION OF MASSACHUSETTS

MASONIC TEMPLE

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REPORT OF THE 218TH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE JURISDICTION OF MASSACHUSETTS

Greetings Worshipful Master , Officers, and members of Blazing Star Lodge #26.....

I hereby submit my report of the 218th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts held December 11, 12, and 13, 2009 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Worshipful Master Grant was unable to attend the Annual Grand Lodge Session due to work commitments. The Senior and Junior Wardens were also not able to attend. Past Master Dennis Griffin (Lodge Secretary) was given a Proxy by the Lodge to vote for the Lodge at the Grand Lodge Session.

TRAVEL

On December 8, 2009 Past Master Griffin and I departed Amsterdam en route to Boston via Frankfurt, Germany. We expected to arrive in Boston at 14:30 Local time. We were delayed due to a security alert in Frankfurt and missed our plane. We were diverted to Washington, D.C. In Washington we were delayed for almost two hours on the ground due to icing conditions. We did not arrive in Boston until 00:30 the next morning.

CHILL TIME

We arrived at the home of RW Bro. Thomas C. Allen between 01:00 and 01:30. In spite of the late (early) hour we had a stimulating and interesting conversation with Bro. Allen for the next hour and a half.

The next morning we were greeted by Barbara and were treated to a wonderful Cambridge breakfast. We learned that the Allen family is continuing to do well and we presented Sister Barbara some gifts. We shared info with Bro. Allen as to how Blazing Star Lodge #26 was doing and he gave us the update on what was going on at the Grand Lodge. Everything there seems to be normal and there are no major problems that did not exist in previous years. We spent the rest of the day shopping and recuperation from our trip the previous day.

Report of Annual Communication MWPHGL – December 2009

On Thursday we made a trip to eat at the “No Name” Restaurant. Due to the schedule change to opening on Friday we had not been able to fit a trip to “No Name” in for the last few years. The food is as good as ever. We left the restaurant and visited Copp’s Hill, the burial site of our Founder and first Grand Master, Prince Hall. As always it was a thrill to be at this site. Every Mason who has the opportunity should take the time to have a look at this site.

GRAND LODGE

Thursday Night was spent at the Grand Lodge building taking care of business. We were able to meet with the Grand Master and we were very cordially received. He expressed his disappointment in not being able to visit the Netherlands last year as planned. He once more stated his intentions of trying to make the visit in 2010.

We met with the Grand Secretary (RW Bro. James Marshall) and ordered and received all the supplies that we needed. The Grand Secretary surprised us with our dues cards and we were grateful.

Past Master Griffin contacted the Chairman of the Benevolent Fund committee and made an inventory of the cards that are on file at the Prince Hall Grand Lodge. Past Master Griffin will be contacting those brethren who need to take action to update their Beneficiary Cards.

Friday, December 11, 2009

The Deputy Grand Master opened the Grand Lodge Session at 09:00 hours. The Grand Master was received with Grand Lodge Honors and was presented the gavel in order to preside. A roll call of the Lodges was held and a quorum being present the Grand Lodge proceeded to the business at hand. The reports of the Grand Lodge Officers and the various committees of the Grand Lodge were read and approved. 95% of the reports and business were taken care of on this day. A copy of the reports has been given to the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden.

The Lodge of Sorrow was held Friday evening at 20:00. The Grand Lodge paid homage to twenty (20) brethren who passed during the Masonic Year 2008-2009. The degree team formed by the Lecturer's Department did an excellent job as usual.

Saturday, December 12, 2009

The Saturday Session opened at 09:30 hours. The Grand Master had the minutes of the previous day's session read and proceeded to receive visitors from other Masonic Jurisdictions. Among the Grand Lodges represented were: Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Grand Lodge of Vermont, Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Connecticut, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New Jersey, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio, and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The representatives (mostly Grand Masters) of these Grand bodies had many interesting and knowledgeable things to communicate to the brethren present.

GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS

Grand Master Anthony I. Jakes presented his Grand Master's Address to the brethren of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge and all visitors. The most important points of his address were as follows:

State of the Nation

The Grand Master made note of the following occurrences in the past year:

- noted the passing of Senator Edward M. Kennedy;
- noted the election of President Barack Obama;
- noted the continuation of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan;
- recognized the “shabby” state of the economy and its effects on people's lives.

Report of Annual Communication MWPHGL – December 2009

State of the Craft

- The Eastern Stars are doing well. There was increased membership due to relaxation of the “blood line” which was extended to January 31, 2010.
- The Knights of Pythagoras have been reactivated
- Relations with the A.E.O.N.M.S. (Shrine) in the Jurisdiction of Massachusetts continue to be good and the Grand Master will attempt to keep it that way.
- The Grand Master feels that every Master Mason has a right to the *Craftsman*. He has taken over personally editing the *Craftsman* and requests help from each Lodge in getting material for publication.

The Grand Master thanks the Honorable Mayor E. Denise Simmons of the City of Cambridge, MA for the proposed Monument to be erected in the City of Cambridge, MA honoring Prince Hall. This will be the first monument in the nation erected in the memory of our first Most Worshipful Grand Master.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1.) Constitution and By-Laws Section 23C reads: In the event of the death of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master shall be, by virtue of his office Acting Grand Master until a successor of the Grand Master is elected and installed.

Recommendation: In the event of the death of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master will assume the position of Grand Master and be obligated.

2.) There is nothing the Constitution and By-Laws stating we, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge and the subordinate lodges are unable to recruit and solicit new membership.

Recommendation: It will be to the best interest of Masonry and more particular to this Grand Lodge and the subordinate lodges to recruit and solicit new membership thence forth. We are losing members and Brothers are not bringing in candidates to replace them. This is the oldest black fraternity in the nation and by this action I would like to continue its existence.

The recommendations were voted on and passed by the body. They will be passed on to the Committee on Jurisprudence to see if they conform to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

The Concordant Bodies of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge were received by the Grand Master and each organization was given the opportunity to address the Grand Master and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge assembled.

ELECTIONS

After lunch nominations for the Officers of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge were held. All elected Grand Lodge Officers were nominated unopposed. The nominees were the following:

Grand Master	Anthony I. Jakes
Deputy Grand Master	Frederick B. Summers
Senior Grand Warden	Compton R. Jones
Junior Grand Warden	Reuben Meade
Treasurer	Timothy R. Downs
Secretary	James Marshall

Report of Annual Communication MWPHGL – December 2009

Sunday, December 13, 2009

The Grand Master opened the meeting at 09:00. Grand Lodge business having been completed during the Friday and Saturday meetings the elections were held during the morning session and all Grand Lodge Officers were reelected.

Audit Committee: Due to conditions caused by the death of the previous Grand Treasurer, Bro. Waller, the accountant did not have all of the records he needed to provide us with an accurate report. Past Grand Master David Phillips will be assisting the Grand Treasurer and the expectations are that the matter will be settled by the end of January. There is no indication that there are any irregularities in the financial administration of the Grand Lodge.

Installation: The afternoon ended with the installation of the elected Grand Lodge Officers by Past Grand Master Walter R. Butler.

The Grand Lodge was called from Labor to Refreshment until the sound of the gavel at the Resumption on December 27, 2009.

I would like to thank Past Master Griffin for his companionship and the excellent manner which he represented Blazing Star Lodge #26 at the 218th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

Fraternally submitted,

Charles B. Beane

Charles B. Beane
District Deputy Grand Master
Seventh Masonic District