**Allocution  
of the   
Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief  
of the Ohio Council of Deliberation  
and Deputy for the Orient of Ohio**

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**October 26, 2024**

“If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”  
*1 Peter 4:11*

To the 20th Sovereign Grand Commander of The United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc., Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore 33°; to the 66th Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio, the Honorable Robert M. Estelle Jr. 33° and his Trustees; to the Assistant to the Deputy for the Orient of Ohio, S.G.I.G. Louis C. Crocheron 33º; to the Sovereign Grand Inspectors General; to the officers of the Ohio Council of Deliberation; to all Grand Inspectors General; to all past and present Illustrious Commanders-in-Chief; to all Sublime Princes; to the State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler of the Ohio Grand Assembly, LL Arthurine F. Shepard and the officers of the Ohio Grand Assembly; to the 46th Grand Worthy Matron of Amaranth Grand Chapter Inc., O.E.S., State of Ohio, Sister Gloria R. Rodgers and her Trustees; to all past and present Loyal Lady Rulers; to all Loyal Ladies; to all of our distinguished guests…

Good morning.

**Intro**

Before any important undertaking we should invoke the blessings of Deity.

♦ ♦ ♦

I would first like to thank my Creator and Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for His divine intervention for allowing me the strength to represent this Ohio Council of Deliberation for another year. I would also like to give thanks to Cheryl Williams, the First Lady of the Orient of Ohio, along with our daughters and grandchildren. Without their support there would be no joy in this labor of love that I have for this organization.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Sovereign Grand Commander, Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore 33º…

A person wearing a crown and a necklace

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for his extraordinary leadership and for having the confidence to allow me to continue to be his representative serving as the 14th Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief of the Ohio Council of Deliberation and Deputy for this great Orient. I humbly and proudly serve to the best of my ability.

Miami Consistory No. 26 and Miami Assembly No. 22 have labored quite a bit in undertaking the preparations for this Annual Session. I thank you for all your sacrifices to get us to this place of achievement.

The officers of the Ohio Council of Deliberations and the Ohio Commanders of the Rite are worthy of praise for your efforts and successes during the past year.

Special thanks go out to LL Diane P. Jofferion, Loyal Lady Ruler of Bezaleel Assembly No. 19. She is doing double duty this year because she also serves as the Executive Secretary to the Deputy for the Orient.

**Necrology**

“For Whom the Bell Tolls” is a poem many are familiar with, but may not appreciate the words at their full value. Here are a few lines

For I am involved in mankind  
Each man’s death diminishes me  
...  
For whom the bell tolls  
It tolls for thee

These few lines mean that the death of any person is a loss to all of us, because we are bound together. We know not the day nor the hour, but the bell will toll for all of us one day.

Of the members the Grand Architect chose to remove from us were three standouts in the Orient—S.G.I.G. William Strawbridge 33° (15); Past State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Jamesetta H. Royster (35); and Past Loyal Lady Ruler Maggie J. Parks (22)

A person wearing a blue hat and a red sash

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May God keep them and bless their families.

♦ ♦ ♦

**State of the Nation**

It seems like we are in a never-ending episode of *The Twilight Zone*! Who would think we were on track to have an election between a supposedly senile incumbent who will probably be rated one of the best Presidents of the last 50 years and an ex-President with more felonies to his name than years of life on planet Earth? Now the supposedly senile incumbent has removed himself from contention and his Vice President, Kamala Harris, is taking his place.

Let’s go by the numbers. A certain individual has survived one assassination attempt; is twice divorced; thrice married; has 5 children; been convicted of 34 felony counts; charged with 91 felony counts; and is guilty of innumerable public gaffes and falsehoods as it pertains to fact-based reporting.[[1]](#footnote-2) I believe he has his political bingo card covered.

Politics is Hollywood for ugly people. “Ugly” is certainly the word to use when discussing the incessant partisan bickering and inability to effectively serve the citizens of this country and that pertains to both Democrats and Republicans.

With the high rate of inflation, the buying power of a dollar has been reduced by 30 percent since the last time we met. If you have not noticed, you certainly will when shopping at the grocery store.

Undocumented immigrants are coming in droves, and some are getting more benefits than natural born citizens and our taxes are steadily increasing.

Just when we thought we were out of the woods as far as COVID is concerned we recently learned we are just standing on the edge of the field. There has been an uptick in cases across the country so we should remain vigilant.

The truth is truly stranger than fiction.

Our meeting is always a short time before Election Day and every year I feel it is my duty to remind you to exercise your right to vote in your personal capacity as private citizens. How can we be so willing to vote for or against leadership in our fraternal world, but be hesitant in casting a vote for leadership in the real world?

This year is a presidential election year. That is important. No matter who is elected history will be made.

However, all politics is local. Educate yourself and pay attention to the state and local races. For example, what use is it to vote for President and miss the opportunity to vote for the District Attorney in your area who prioritizes cases and crimes to pursue which so often negatively affects our communities?

Following 1 week after Election Day is Veterans Day. For those it concerns your willingness to do what others have not must be acknowledged. Because you did, we can!

**ALL VETERANS STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED**

The state of the nation is strong, but there are some deficiencies, and as we know, the biggest room in the world is the room for improvement.

**State of the Rite**

Through use of the [Constant Contact email platform](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/IFsjWR4); the [USC NJ website](https://uscnjpha.org/); [USC NJ Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/groups/403105910267366); and communications from the Cathedral trickled down through the Deputies, the membership has remained informed and engaged.

Scottish Rite education is again reaffirming its proper place in our Order.

The Loyal Ladies are still enjoying a renewed focus through the pointed involvement of the Sovereign Grand Commander and the creation of the Order of the Golden Circle Working Group, and they are loving it. It is said that behind (or alongside) every good man is an even better woman.

Through the effort and action of our Sovereign Grand Commander we see that leading from the front and his engagement with others gets us closer to the goal of becoming the premier Supreme Council in Scottish Rite freemasonry.

The State of the Rite is strong.

**State of the Orient**

*Education*

The Fraters have asked, and we have delivered. Beginning in January of this year, our Orient has hosted a monthly virtual education seminar with new topics covered each month. This is the brainchild of Illustrious Minister of State and Grand Orator G.I.G. Eugene W. Greenfield 33° (21), and he facilitates each session.

*Statewide Reunion*

Noting the need for uniformity of degree work; engaging the younger Fraters; and generating overall excitement about the Scottish Rite, Illustrious Eugene Greenfield accepted the challenge to plan and execute our Statewide Reunion and Workshop on Saturday, June 15 at the Northwest Masonic Center of our Grand Lodge of State counterparts.

Lieutenant Grand Commander S.G.I.G Sidney D. Broadnax Jr. 33° (20) (representing Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore 33° (6)) and Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio (GIG) Robert M. Estelle Jr. (26) were in attendance.

The Deputy for the Orient, S.G.I.G. Donald R. Heldman 33°, and the Active membership of the Ohio Council of Deliberation (Northern Masonic Jurisdiction) were in attendance.

Degree teams were assembled to perform the constitutionally mandated degrees and displayed the ritualistic prowess of each Consistory.

Illustrious Commander-in-Chief G.I.G. Albert C. Blair 33° (20) in the 4th degree and the 18th degree team of Bezaleel Consistory No. 15 gave standout performances. However, of the six degrees, one performance stood tall against the rest. Deputy for the Orient of Ohio (NMJ) Donald R. Heldman 33° was tasked to choose the Consistory with the most outstanding degree performance. That honor was awarded to the Valley of Columbus 20th degree team led by Illustrious Greenfield.

A group of men wearing matching outfits

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During my closing remarks, I named the newly advanced Fraters the *Jerry R. Ellerson Class of 2024*.

A special thanks is accorded to PCIC Alan D. Tucker 33° (21) for taking charge of the audio/visual duties for the Reunion; G.I.G. Terry Grooms 33° (20) for taking on photographer duties; and to Capital Valley Assembly No. 36 who provided lunch for the attendees.

*Voter Awareness*

The Voter Awareness Committee, co-chaired by G.I.G. Joseph Clark Jr. 33° (21) and G.I.G. David C.S. Whitehead 33° (20) has been plenty, productive, and promising. These Fraters are the embodiment of the motto “Engage, Educate, and Mobilize!” They launched a fierce campaign of information and awareness this year through many successful events held in-person throughout the Orient and virtually (Zoom, Facebook, YouTube). Voters were registered, issues were explained, and contacts were made. Teams in the five Valleys really beat the streets and raised the collective consciousness. A special thanks goes out to LL Dee Dee Howell of Bezaleel Assembly No. 19 for her consistent outreach activities in support of the committee.

To be clear, as a nonprofit organization we, the Ohio Council of Deliberation, do not endorse candidates or platforms. However, to borrow a phrase from the co-chair, we always endorse the truth because the truth is nonpartisan.

In addition, we should follow the advice of our Sovereign Grand Commander—Let’s **PAC!**

**P**articipate by casting your vote in the upcoming elections.  
**A**dvocate by educating ourselves on the issues and champion the causes.  
**C**ollaborate with others to increase participation.

*Scholarships*

The listing of scholarships awarded by our Council of Deliberation is encouched in the book of reports. The members of our Council of Deliberation continue Ohio’s strong tradition of masonic philanthropy ensuring that future generations have a decent beginning to their college careers free or partially free from the financial burden often incurred in pursuing higher education. This year we have awarded more than $25,800 to 34 deserving students.

We must ensure that our scholarship funds continue to be generously funded and our students phenomenally resourced. Between the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio, Ohio Council of Deliberation, and the United Supreme Council I *know* the financial resources are available for their success.

The Ohio Council of Deliberation has awarded more than 725 scholarships totaling more than $498,000 throughout the past 50-plus years and we look forward to many more!

*Inspections*

Inspections for all five Consistories and all five Assemblies have been completed. The fiscal books of the respective officers are sound and will survive an audit. The equipment is in good condition, and the works of the Rite conform to expectations. All bodies have met their obligation to the Orient of Ohio and our United Supreme Council. I want to thank all the officers of the various Consistories and Assemblies for the courtesies extended to me this past year.

*Facebook page*

The Ohio Council of Deliberation now has a Facebook page. This is another brainchild of Illustrious Greenfield. There is nothing private or esoteric discussed, so the page is open to everyone—Loyal Ladies, Sublime Princes, Grand Inspectors General, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General, and the public. You can find us at [Ohio Council of Deliberation & OGA, Orient of Ohio, AASR, PHA, NJ, USA](https://www.facebook.com/groups/313708537961117/).

*Constant Contact*

Following the lead of the United Supreme Council, the Orient of Ohio now has our own Constant Contact platform which has enjoyed a successful rollout. We have worked the kinks out and the Loyal Ladies will be added soon. G.I.G. Lonnie Jones II 33° (20) leads this effort.

*Website*

In November, a new Orient website was launched by our Grand Webmaster G.I.G. James J. Johnson Jr. 33° (20). Please visit our new website—<www.ohcodpha.org>. Through the efforts of the Website Committee, we have a first-class product, and we operate one of the few Council of Deliberation websites in the jurisdiction. Response to the website has been positive and encouraging. Please continue to check it for news and information. A special thanks goes out to Sublime Prince Derrick Evans 32° (20) who serves as the Assistant Webmaster.

*Commanders of the Rite*

Led by S.G.I.G. Gregory S. Snead 33° (15), the Ohio Commanders of the Rite remains on a steady course. Favorable reports have been received from all Valleys.

Please keep in mind that **ALL** Sovereign and Grand Inspectors General are members of the Commanders of the Rite. It is up to the Valley Secretaries to collect the dues. We should all be encouraging our respective members of the Commanders of the Rite to pay their dues.

All Sovereign Grand Inspectors General are to function as assistants to the Deputy in an Orient and shall assist the Deputy in the performance of his duties. Illustrious Peers, I recognize the schedule is full and the requests are many; however, the purple crown that you wear denotes you as a leader of leaders and your behavior is expected to set the example for those not of your rank. The Orient of Ohio has been in the forefront of Scottish Rite freemasonry in the Northern Jurisdiction. We, as Sovereign Grand Inspectors General are expected to do more; we must do more; we WILL do more.



On Friday June 14, I, along with my team, S.G.I.G. Louis C. Crocheron 33º (15); S.G.I.G. Jerry D. Springer Sr. 33° (26); S.G.I.G. Darryl R. Smith 33° (26); and S.G.I.G. Charles G. Smith 33° (21), was privileged to and empowered by the Sovereign Grand Commander to communicate the Thirty-third and Last Degree of Scottish Rite freemasonry upon Frater Wesley Ingram (21). It was our honor to perform. Illustrious Ingram was set to appear in Milwaukee, but life has many twists and turns. We are proud to have him as a member of the *Dr. Ivory M. Buck Jr. Class of 2024*.

The Ohio Council of Deliberation is doing the good work of the Scottish Rite in the states and abroad. Supporting a Health Screening Initiative in Ghana, PCIC Emmanuel Ashong 33° (15) represented our COD in making a difference by supporting this event with presence, purpose, and a financial contribution. Illustrious Ashong undertook the trip to Ghana for this in April and in August.

I would also like to recognize S.G.I.G. Reginald B. Stewart 33° (15). His main job is serving as the Grand Historian for the Orient. He is always ready to answer all history-related questions and provide counsel when requested.

However, I also appointed him as the Orient liaison to the *Bulletin* and as the liaison to the Outreach to Fraters Committee; the Constant Contact committee; the Website Committee; and he also assists with the Orient Facebook page. He also oversees the works of the next generation of leadership in the Orient.

His efforts directly contribute to the Sovereign Grand Commander’s theme of “Enhancing the Scottish Rite Experience.”

*Programs*

***Raffle***

The third Ohio Council of Deliberation raffle ended during our last Annual Session. The drawing was held and Illustrious Grand Secretary S.G.I.G. Gerald S. Friason 33° (20) was one of the winners. All prizes were distributed. Many thanks go out to S.G.I.G. Gregory L. Allen 33° (20) and his team.

A few months ago, we launched our 2024 raffle. The deadline for ticket sales ended 2 weeks ago and at this point we only want funds in return. The funds generated help to offset the expenses of the Council of Deliberation. I will let it be known that we have not raised taxes for 35 years. The top prize is $500, and the drawing will be held tomorrow at the conclusion of the Ohio Grand Assembly banquet.

Kudos to S.P. Shawn Searcy 32° (21) for successfully leading this effort and S.G.I.G Gregory L. Allen 33°, the liaison.

***The Camp lapel pin***

This pin was gifted to all those who were able to attend the Statewide Reunion and Workshop in June. For all others, who wanted to attend but could not, a number have been allocated to each Consistory. Those pins should have been sold by now and all monies submitted to the Illustrious Grand Secretary. A rebate of 10 percent was earned by each Consistory.



***Robes***

In an effort to promote uniformity of dress across the Orient, I authorized a robe initiative. These robes can be worn at funerals, local Consistory meetings, and Council of Deliberation meetings. The robes are black, made of a lightweight material, and will have either the 32nd degree emblem embroidered on the back, or the 33rd degree patch stitched on the back.

G.I.G. Jason V. House Sr. 33° (20) is leading the robe initiative. Five dollars ($5) from each sale is rebated to the Consistory of the Frater who purchased a robe; $5 will be directed to the state Commanders of the Rite; and $5 will be directed to the Ohio Council of Deliberation.



***Polo shirts***

Polo shirt sales are still ongoing. The polo shirt is a joint venture between the Ohio Commanders of the Rite and the Ohio Council of Deliberation. Please note that a rebate of $5 is for the Council of Deliberation; $5 is for the Ohio Commanders of the Rite; and $5 is for the Consistory to which the Frater belongs is included in the price. This is a winning situation for all involved! Class of 2025…now is a good time to order your new shirts if you have not already done so.

A black polo shirt with a yellow emblem on it

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*Order of the Golden Circle*

Per the Sovereign Grand Commander, the edict remains in effect that all women who are members of the Order of the Eastern Star and the Heroines of Jericho may join the Order of the Golden Circle. Please encourage the eligible ladies in your life (mothers, sisters, wives, *etc*.) who are not members to pursue membership. For complete understanding, female relatives are able to join the Order of the Golden Circle **without** first joining the Order of the Eastern Star due to the temporary suspension of bloodline requirement to join the Order of the Eastern Star in some of the states in our jurisdictions.

I am very pleased with the amount of community service that the Assemblies are doing, especially Bezaleel Assembly No. 19 led by Loyal Lady Diane P. Jofferion.

I would also like to congratulate all the Assemblies for trying to increase their membership.

*Fraternal Relations*

In November of last year, I attended the 142nd Annual Session of the Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation. As always, it was a great time in our Mother Orient.

I attended our counterpart Ohio Council of Deliberation Annual Session this past June. I enjoyed myself immensely. How good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together.

The United Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction’s 138th Annual Session held in the Valley of Memphis, Orient of Tennessee. As always it is a great experience full of fellowship and enlightenment.

The Orient of Ohio remains in lockstep with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio, and we strive to have no daylight between us. The Orient of Ohio maintains an excellent relationship with all grand bodies of the Ohio Prince Hall family.

The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry is alive and well in the Orient of Ohio and the state of the Orient is very strong.

**United Supreme Council**

*Annual Session*

The 143rd Annual Session was held in the Valley of Milwaukee, Orient of Wisconsin. It has been 22 years since we last visited. That is where I was Elevated.

*Executive session*

During the first executive session the Orient of Ohio was blessed with another Frater reclassified to Emeritus status. Please congratulate Illustrious Gregory L. Allen 33° (20).



To begin the second executive session SGC Bazemore made a poignant statement worth notice. While discussing a related issue, SGC Bazemore stated this one powerful line—“He who puts the feather *in* can also pluck the feather *out.*”The day when one can rest on their past performances is slowly dying. It is deeds and not words that matter. It is a message we all should take to heart.

During the third executive session, the Orient of Ohio was presented a plaque recognizing our monumental effort as the Orient with the most ads placed in this year’s historic souvenir journal!

A silver certificate with black text

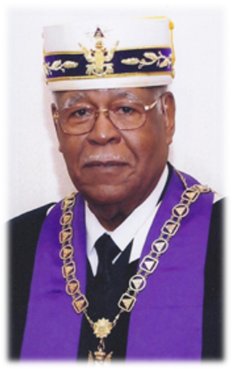
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Once again, I recognize Illustrious Greg Allen, for his chairmanship of Ohio’s successful effort and Illustrious Grooms who stepped in at the last minute and did such a phenomenal job for our Orient that he is now the Content Manager for the USC Souvenir Journal Committee.

*Class*

After the Deputy’s meeting, SGC Bazemore and his Cabinet visited the Class for the time-honored tradition of naming the Class. SGC Bazemore informed the group they were now recognized as the *Dr. Ivory M. Buck Jr. Class of 2024*. Grand Historian Illustrious Stewart followed up the naming by providing further enlightenment on S.G.I.G. Dr. Ivory M. Buck Jr. 33°.

Illustrious Buck was a long-time member of DeHugo Consistory No. 2, Valley of Camden, Orient of New Jersey. He served as the Illustrious Secretary-General of the Holy Empire before stepping down to serve as the 33rd Imperial Potentate and then returning to serve as the Illustrious Grand Recording Secretary.



Congratulations to the 13 Orient of Ohio members of the *Dr. Ivory M. Buck Jr. Class of 2024*! Among those Class members is Illustrious Grooms who was elected as their president.

*Saturday*

On May 25, a large crowd attended the street renaming ceremony at St. Mark A.M.E. Church for past Illustrious Grand Minister of State S.G.I.G. William R. Stark 33° (70). Illustrious Stewart enlightened the assemblage on the masonic resume of the late Illustrious Stark.

Saturday afternoon, Illustrious Greenfield delivered a lecture on “Membership and Grades” during the one of the plenary sessions and Illustrious Stewart performed a part as a member of the 32° Degree Demonstration team.

Saturday night the Orient of Ohio hosted an open hospitality in the host hotel. Many stopped by for great food and fellowship. A special thank you goes out to Illustrious Darryl R. Smith (through his position as Deputy of the Desert of Ohio, AEAONMS) who partnered with the Orient to handle the expenses. Illustrious Lonnie Jones II was responsible for executing this event and Illustrious Stewart oversaw the effort.

*Sunday*

Sunday at Annual Session began with Worship Service. S.G.I.G. Rev. Dr. Wilton E. “Twenty Dollar” Blake I 33° (20), Illustrious Grand Prior, began with prayer and facilitated the offering. Illustrious Willis followed with additional words of wisdom before the introduction of the speaker G.I.G. Rev. Peter L. Hart 33° (6).

The sermon during the evening memorial service was delivered by G.I.G. Rev. Brian T. Moragne 33° (20)—“Jesus Wept.”

S.G.I.G. Lawrence E. Coleman Sr. 33° (20) effortlessly directed the USC Mass choir during the Sunday morning Worship Service and the Sunday evening Memorial Service. The choir has never sounded better!

*Allocution*

Sovereign Grand Commander Bazemore delivered a motivational, inspirational, and informative allocution covering the last year of activity of the United Supreme Council. It was delivered in person and augmented by a video presentation. Sublime Princes and the Loyal Ladies of the Order of the Golden Circle attended. Highlights included:

* Introduction of the Knight Commander of the Court of Honour investiture
  + This honor recognizes Sublime Princes for exemplary performance within the Scottish Rite. It is an investiture and not a new degree.
* Establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Alzheimer’s Association
  + As a national partner we aim to increase awareness, provide resources, and foster long-term success in underserved communities of color.
* The creation of a Media Relations Department headed by a Sublime Prince.
  + Tasked with increasing visibility of the USC’s vision and mission—“Delivering the Rite message, at the Rite time, to the Rite people”

*Banquet*

The banquet was robustly attended by all. Owing to the Sovereign Grand Commander’s insistence on ensuring value for our time, we did not start on one day and end on another.

Two large screens played a video montage from Annual Sessions from the past few years and photos taken during this year’s Annual Session. A few members of the Orient of Ohio were prominently displayed. Class president, Illustrious Grooms, delivered remarks of thanksgiving and on behalf of the Class, presented the largest Class donation ever to the USC’s Benevolent Foundation—$30,000.



Initiatives

*Reclamation*

One of the Sovereign Grand Commander’s focus areas is reclaiming inactive members. The window for reinstatement closes on April 30, 2025.

A reclamation committee is in effect and the waiver on reclamation fees for Sublime Princes at the Consistory level is in effect. Please inform our disconnected Fraters they can come back in the fold and truly enjoy the enhanced Scottish Rite experience they are missing.

G.I.G. John D. Winlock Sr. 33° (24) serves on the committee on the Orient and USC level. G.I.G. Roscoe Simmons 33° (15) is the Orient contact.

*Make a Difference*

For so long the USC lacked the ability to accurately account for all the community service and charitable donations that the organization, through its members, provides. Now we have a means to gather all that data through a portal on the website. In time, we will be able to use the info to obtain grants and corporate sponsorship opportunities.

The USC contact and Orient chairman is G.I.G. Tony J. Dye 33° (15).

*Lifetime membership*

To the 23 members of the Orient that joined I thank you for your support.

Each Lifetime Membership creates “legacy.” The members’ dues are paid forever. One generation plants the trees and another receives the benefit of the shade. The cost to participate during the next open window has not yet been announced.

*Podcast*

The USC podcast series, “Moving Camp” has gotten off to a great start. SGC Bazemore was the first guest, and he very clearly laid out his vision and expectations for the organization. He also emphasized that the engagement of the Sublime Princes is key to the future of the organization.

PSGLLR Yvonne DuHart (34) appeared with other members of the OGC Working Group on episode 3.

Illustrious Greenfield appeared on episode 5 of the podcast wherein he lectured on “The History of Prince Hall Scottish Rite Masonry.”

I had the privilege of appearing on episode 6 in my position as Convention Director. It was an enjoyable experience as I had a chance to pull back the curtains on what it is I do and how things are done.

The very first episode of the second season starred S.G.I.G Dr. C. Keith Melvin 33° (20), Director, USC Medical Department. He covered a multitude of topics affecting the Black community including diabetes management and the dangers of certain blood pressure medications.

There have been 11 episodes so far and as you have just heard the Orient of Ohio figured prominently.

*Walk of Fame Brick Paver Program*

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There is still room available in the Walk of Fame Garden at the Cathedral. You will find the form on the Council of Deliberation website. Phases 1 and 2 of the project have been completed and Phase 3 is now ongoing.

There has been an excellent video created by G.I.G. Charles E. Harper 33° (26) encouraging participation. S.G.I.G. Arlin E. Jackson 33° (26) is the liaison.

The Orient of Ohio represented in large numbers during both phases of the project, and I thank the Fraters and Loyal Ladies of the Orient of Ohio for participating.

When I was Most Worshipful Grand Master, I had a saying—“Grand Lodge officers support Grand Lodge programs.” Well, here I am saying it again with a little twist—“Scottish Rite Masons support Scottish Rite programs.” Support is paramount to success.

**For the Good of the Order**

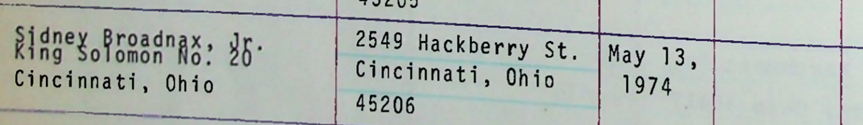
Fraters, please submit newsworthy articles to the United Supreme Council’s [*Bulletin*](https://uscnjpha.org/usc-bulletins/). It is printed twice yearly—spring and fall. All articles must be sent through me.

If you have not yet done so, please sign up for [Constant Contact emails](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/IFsjWR4) for the USC. You will receive updates about the Annual Session and other important information directly.

Be advised you may stay abreast of the happenings of our United Supreme Council through their [website](https://uscnjpha.org/) and on their [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/groups/403105910267366).

Also, please submit articles to the Grand Lodge’s *Lamp*. Spread the good news of Scottish Rite freemasonry and its members!

It is absolutely in order to recognize Lieutenant Grand Commander Sidney D. Broadnax Jr. 33° for his 50 years of service to the United Supreme Council. Illustrious Broadnax was Elevated as a part of the *Carey M. Rector Class of 1974*.

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**Recommendations**

It is my recommendation that the Orient of Ohio—Consistories and Assemblies—continue to comply with all directives issued from the United Supreme Council, the Sovereign Grand Commander, and the Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief of the Ohio Council of Deliberation and Deputy for the Orient of Ohio.

It is my recommendation that $1,000 be donated to the United Supreme Council’s Benevolent Foundation on behalf of the Ohio Council of Deliberation.

It is my recommendation that $250 be donated to the Grand Lodge’s *Lamp.*

It is my recommendation that S.G.I.G. Roy J. Mays 33° (44); S.G.I.G. Jimmy Moore 33° (44); S.G.I.G. Eugene “Gino” Anderson Jr. 33° (25); S.G.I.G. Charles E. Ayler 33° (6); S.G.I.G. Emmanuel Stanley 33° (334, SJ); G.I.G. Gardner M. Torrence Sr. 33° (111); and G.I.G. Gordon Brewer 33° (28) be made honorary members of the Ohio Council of Deliberation.

It is my recommendation that S.P. Shawn Searcy 32° (21) be awarded the Meritorious Service Award for 2024.

**Conclusion**

I have now arrived at the end of another allocution. Oftentimes an allocution can be an execution if the leadership is in question. When I reflect on this year, it feels more like a celebration considering the year we have had and the team I have surrounding me. The time for reflection is upon us once again.

Endeavor to do things right the first time or else you end up being both the arsonist and the fireman. Failure to adhere illustrates the difference between handling “business” or cleaning up a “busy mess”.

There is a difference between a show horse and a work horse. A work horse ain’t gonna show and a show horse ain’t gonna work. Which one are you?

There is knowledge and then there is experience. Learn the difference between the two. Sometimes it comes down to a question of loyalty or ability. Are you unwilling or unable?

The questions are complicated, but the answers are simple.

When leading you are a servant and are often unwanted, unappreciated, and underpaid doing the unthinkable for the sometimes ungrateful.

Do not beset yourselves with a delusional arrogance which can only lead to headaches, heartaches, hangovers, and hurt feelings. Charge forward with good thoughts and a desire to improve the organization in which you hold membership.

Make your purpose your priority.

One’s words and actions must align. Always. In all ways.

Have a safe and pleasant Thanksgiving; a reflective Hanukkah; a Merry Christmas; a jubilant Kwanzaa; and a very Happy New Year.

Fraternally,

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Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief   
of the Ohio Council of Deliberation  
and Deputy for the Orient of Ohio

**OFFICIAL ACTS AND VISITATIONS**

**October 27–29, 2023** Presided, 114th Annual Ohio Council of Deliberation, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Cleveland-Westlake, Westlake, Ohio

**October 29, 2023** Visited 52nd Annual Ohio Grand Assembly, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Cleveland-Westlake, Westlake, Ohio

**⸎**

**November 3–5, 2023** Attended Recognition Banquet, 66th Most Worshipful Grand Master Robert M. Estelle Jr., Marriott at the University of Dayton Hotel, Dayton, Ohio

**November 15, 2023** Attended meeting, Bezaleel Consistory No. 15, El Hasa Temple, Cleveland, Ohio

**November 15, 2023** Attended masonic service, G.I.G. Charles E. Benning Sr. 33°, Watson’s FuneralHome, Cleveland, Ohio

**November 15, 2023** Attended masonic service, S.P. Roosevelt Goddard 32°, E.F. Boyd & Son Funeral Home, Cleveland, Ohio

**⸎**

**January 12–14, 2024** Attended Mid-Year Deputy meeting, United Supreme Council, Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel, Springfield, Massachusetts

**January 17, 2024** Attended elections, Bezaleel Consistory No. 15 / Bezaleel Assembly No. 19, FSLC building, Cleveland, Ohio

**January 23, 2024** Presided, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General Zoom meeting

**January 24, 2024** Presided, Grand Inspectors General Zoom meeting

**January 28, 2024** Attended, Orient of Ohio Lecture Series, “The History of Prince Hall Scottish Rite Masonry”, Zoom

**⸎**

**February 19, 2024** Attended, Power in our Vote Candidate Forum, Mt. Sinai Friendship United, Cleveland, Ohio

**February 21, 2024** Attended meeting, Bezaleel Consistory No. 15, FSLC building, Cleveland, Ohio

**February 25, 2024** Attended, Orient of Ohio Lecture Series, “The Lodge of Perfection and Symbolism of the 4th Degree”, Zoom

**February 27, 2024** Presided, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General teleconference

**February 28, 2024** Presided, Grand Inspectors General teleconference

**⸎**

**March 17, 2024** Performed inspection/official visitation with SGLLR Arthurine F. Shepard, Dove Assembly No. 34, Cincinnati, Ohio

**March 20, 2024** Performed inspection, Bezaleel Consistory No. 15 / Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal, FSLC building, Cleveland, Ohio

**March 24, 2024** Attended, Orient of Ohio Lecture Series, “The Chapter of Rose Croix, 15° Knight of the East or Sword”, Zoom

**March 26, 2024** Presided, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General teleconference

**March 26, 2024** Presided, Grand Inspectors General teleconference

**March 30, 2024** Performed inspection/official visitation with SGLLR Arthurine F. Shepard, La Paz Assembly No. 35, Toledo, Ohio

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**April 10, 2024** Performed inspection, St. Matthews Consistory No. 24, Toledo, Ohio

**April 13, 2024** Performed inspection, Miami Consistory No. 26, Dayton, Ohio

**April 14, 2024** Performed inspection, King Solomon Consistory No. 20, Cincinnati, Ohio

**April 16, 2024** Attended corporate meetings, United Supreme Council, Northern Jurisdiction, VIRTUAL

**April 17, 2024** Performed inspection/official visitation with SGLLR Arthurine F. Shepard, Bezaleel Assembly No. 19, Providence House, Cleveland, Ohio

**April 21, 2024** Performed inspection/official visitation with SGLLR Arthurine F. Shepard, Miami Assembly No. 22, Dayton, Ohio

**April 22, 2024** Performed inspection, L.D. Easton Consistory No. 21, St. Mark’s Lodge, Columbus, Ohio

**April 23, 2024** Presided, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General teleconference

**April 24, 2024** Presided, Grand Inspectors General teleconference

**April 24, 2024** Performed inspection/official visitation with SGLLR Arthurine F. Shepard, Capital Valley Assembly No. 36, St. Mark’s Lodge, Columbus, Ohio

**April 28, 2024** Attended, Orient of Ohio Lecture Series, “32° Part One: Camp of the Masonic Army”, Zoom

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**May 15, 2024** Attended meeting, Bezaleel Consistory No. 15, El Hasa Temple, Cleveland, Ohio

**May 21–May 29, 2024** Attended 143rd Annual Session, United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc., Hilton Milwaukee City Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**⸎**

**June 2, 2024** Attended 126th Annual Ohio Council of Deliberation, Marriott at the University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio

**June 8, 2024** Attended 3rd Annual Unity Day, Bezaleel Consistory No. 15, El Hasa Temple, Cleveland, Ohio

**June 19, 2024** Attended civil service, SGLLR Jamesetta H. Royster, St. Paul Baptist Church, Toledo, Ohio

**June 19, 2024** Attended meeting, Bezaleel Consistory No. 15, El Hasa Temple, Cleveland, Ohio

**June 22, 2024** Attended “Upon the Shoulders of Whom I Stand” Golden Luncheon, Bezaleel Assembly No. 19, Mediterranean Party Center, Bedford Heights, Ohio

**⸎**

**July 17, 2024** Attended meeting, Bezaleel Consistory No. 15 / Bezaleel Consistory No. 19, El Hasa Temple, Cleveland, Ohio

**July 23, 2024** Presided, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General teleconference

**July 24, 2024** Presided, Grand Inspectors General teleconference

**⸎**

**August 4–8, 2024** Attended 175th Annual Communication, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio, Renaissance Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio

**August 27, 2024** Presided, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General teleconference

**August 28, 2024** Presided, Grand Inspectors General teleconference

**⸎**

**September 15, 2024** Attended, Bezaleel Consistory No. 15, Commanders of the Rite meeting, Goodyear Heights Metro Park, Akron, Ohio

**September 18, 2024** Attended meeting, Bezaleel Consistory No. 15, El Hasa Temple, Cleveland, Ohio

**September 24, 2024** Presided, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General teleconference

**September 25, 2024** Presided, Grand Inspectors General teleconference

**September 28, 2024** Attended, “Boots on the Ground with 1000 Black Men”, Zelma Watson George Recreation Center, Cleveland, Ohio

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**October 11–15, 2024** Attended 138th Annual Session, United Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc., Embassy Suites, Memphis, Tennessee

**October 16, 2024** Attended meeting, Bezaleel Consistory No. 15, FSLC building, Cleveland, Ohio

**PROCLAMATIONS**

Ceremony of Renewal and Remembrance

Whit Sunday

115th Annual Session, Ohio Council of Deliberation

**RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT**

G.I.G. Gary Banner 33°

G.I.G. Charles E. Benning Sr. 33°

G.I.G. Ollie Walker Scott 33°

S.G.I.G. William Strawbridge 33°

G.I.G. Stanley E. Broadnax 33°

PSGLLR Jamesetta Royster

Mrs. Cora Mae Thornton

G.I.G. Charles M. Reed 33°

G.I.G. Burl W. Woodruff 33°

PSGLLS Maggie J. Parks

1. In addition, so the record is properly reflected, this individual has also accumulated 1 fake charity shut down; 1 fake university shut down; 2 impeachments; 4 indictments; 5 draft deferments; 6 bankruptcies; 26 sexual assault allegations; $2 million charity abuse judgement; $25 million fraud settlement; $88.3 million sexual abuse verdict; and a $364 million verdict in civil fraud case. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)