

GIVING ALL HONOR TO THE GRAND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE, WHO HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY, THIS DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE. FIRST LET ME PAY HOMAGE TO ALL OF THE DECEASED PAST NATIONAL GRAND MASTERS OF THIS MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE. FROM HON. JOHN T. HILTON TO HON JEFFERSON D. TUFTS, SR, WHO ARE NOW RESTING IN THAT GRAND LODGE IN THE SKY THAT HOUSE NOT MADE WITH HANDS, ETERNAL IN THE HEAVENS.

I GIVE HONORS TO THREE BROTHERS THAT NEVER ATTAINED THE RANKS OF NATIONAL GRAND MASTER, BUT SERVED AND TRULY LOVED THIS ORGANIZATION. R.W. LOUIS MACKIE PAST NATIONAL SENIOR WARDEN, R.W. RICHARD REMBERT, PAST NATIONAL GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN AND PAST NATIONAL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER EUGENE SALLEY. WHEN THE KIND FATHER IN HEAVEN LAID HIS ALLEVIATING HAND UPON THEIR WEAKEN AND WEARY BODIES, RELIEVING THEM OF ALL EARTHLY SUFFERING AND PAIN. SO WAS OUR CHAIN OF LOVE BROKEN AND SUFFERING A GREAT LOSS. THEY WERE GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD BROTHERS AND WERE FAITHFUL TO THE TEACHING OF MASONRY.

I LAY BEFORE YOU THE RESOLUTION OF R.W LOUIS MACKIE, R.W. RICHARD REMBERT, HON. JEFFERSON D. TUFTS, SR AND R.W. EUGENE SALLEY AND THAT COPIES BE SPREAD UPON THE PERMANENT RECORDS OF OUR ORGANIZATION. THERE TO REMAIN UNTIL TIME IMMEMORIAL.

TO THE HON. OSCAR MACK, PAST NATIONAL GRAND MASTER, TO HON NORMAN WOODARD, PAST NATIONAL GRAND MASTER AND TO HON FELTON FERGUSON, PAST NATIONAL GRAND MASTER.

TO MY ESTEEM NATIONAL CABINET, TO ALL NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS, PAST NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS, PAST NATIONAL GRAND

LODGE OFFICERS, PAST GRAND WORTHY MATRONS AND PAST GRAND MASTERS, GRAND WORTHY MATRONS, GRAND OFFICERS AND GRAND MASTERS, TO ALL MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, COMRADES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. GOOD MORNING. I BRING YOU GREETINGS FROM THE MOST WORSHIPFUL NATIONAL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED ANCIENT YORK MASONS, PRINCE HALL ORIGIN, NATIONAL COMPACT, U.S.A.

THANK YOU GM ROOSEVELT WASHINGTON, AND MEMBERS OF THE MW PRINCE EDWIN GRAND LODGE OF INDIANA. YOU HAVE TAKEN ON A MONUMENTAL TASK OF HOSTING THIS 55TH NATIONAL TRIENNIAL SESSION. IT REQUIRED CAREFUL PLANNING, PERCISE COORDINATION, GOOD TEAMWORK, NUMEROUS COMMITTEE MEETINGS, A LOT OF PATIENCE AND OF COURSE ONE KEY INGREDIENT ESSENTAIL TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY PROGRAM OR ANYTHING YOU DO...PRAYER

MATTHEW 21:22 STATES "IF YOU BELIEVE, YOU WILL RECEIVE WHATEVER YOU ASK FOR IN PRAYER." THE PRAYERS OF THE MW PRINCE EDWIN GRAND LODGE HAS BEEN HEARD AND BLESSED WITH A RECORD TURNOUT AT THIS 55TH NATIONAL TRIENNIAL SESSION. PRAYER STILL WORKS!

ON BEHALF OF THE MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARDWORK, SINCERE AND DEDICATED DEVOTION TO THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE. PLEASE JOIN ME BY STANDING AND GIVING THE MW PRINCE EDWIN GRAND LODGE AND ITS MEMBERSHIP A STANDING OVATION FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

ABOVE ALL, THANK YOU THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COMPACT FOR ATTENDING THIS 55TH NATIONAL TRIENNIAL SESSION. IT'S YOUR LOYAL AND DEDICATED SUPPORT THAT CONTINUES TO MAKE OUR SESSIONS SUCCESSFUL.

EVEN WITH THE ECONOMY BEING AS IT IS, YOU CONTINUE TO ATTEND BECAUSE YOU LOVE AND CARE ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT YOUR BEING HERE AREN'T TAKEN LIGHTLY OR FOR GRANTED ...IT'S WELL APPRECIATED.

IT'S NOW HAS BEEN ALMOST THREE YEARS SERVING AS YOUR NATIONAL GRAND MASTER. I CAN TRULY SAY IT HAS BEEN REWARDING AND CHALLENGING. I HAVE MET NOTHING BUT WONDERFUL BROTHERS AND SISTERS THROUGHOUT THIS NATIONAL COMPACT. I APPRECIATE THE GREAT HOSPITALITY AND RESPECT THAT HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO ME AND MORE ESPECIALLY TO THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE CABINET MEMBERS.

BEFORE, I LAYING OUT THE WORKS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS. LET ME MAKE A FEW ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. TO THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE CABINET THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUED ASSISTANCE; FOR BEING GOOD TEAM MEMBERS AND FOR YOUR LOYALTY WHICH HAS MEANT SO MUCH TO ME, ALWAYS WILLING TO ASSIST WHENEVER CALLED UPON. THANK YOU FOR TAKING TIME AWAY FROM YOUR FAMILY TO VISIT THE VARIOUS GRAND LODGES ASSIGNED TO YOU. YOUR VISITATIONS, ASSISTANCE AND VISIABILITY HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE.

TO THE OUTGOING NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP AND LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR THE NEXT GENERATIONS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS. TO SIS. MATTIE BAKER, NATIONAL GRAND WORTHY MATRON, SIS ELOISE DUNAWAY, NATIONAL GRAND ILL. PRIESTESS AND SIS EDNA SUMTER, NATIONAL GRAND ROYAL MATRON, THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNTIRING AND DEVOTED SERVICE TO YOUR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

TO CAMPANION JEFFEY THOMAS, NATIONAL GRAND HIGH PRIEST, SUBLIME PRINCE ERNEST MCKNIGHT, NATIONAL GRAND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNTIRING AND DEVOTED SERVICE TO YOUR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

I LIKE TO SPEAK FOR A MOMENT ABOUT THE BOND SIS. MATTIE BAKER AND I HAVE CREATED AS NATIONAL GRAND MASTER AND NATIONAL GRAND WORTHY MATRON. THIS BONDING STARTED WAY BEFORE WE BECAME NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS. AS PRESENT LEADERS WE NEVER HAD A DISAGREEMENT, NEVER HAD AN ARGUMENT, ALWAYS RESPECTED EACH OTHER IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS, OPINIONS, AND ALWAYS WORKED COOPERATIVELY WITH EACH OTHER. MOST OF ALLWE RESPECTED EACH OTHER AS A BROTHER AND SISTER AND LEADERS OF OUR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

DON'T GET ME WRONG, I ALSO ENJOYED THESE SAME QUALITIES WITH THE OTHER DEPARTMENT HEADS. BEING THAT YOU MUST BE A MASTER MASON OR EASTERN STAR TO BE IN THE OTHER HOUSES. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT THE FOUNDATION FOR COOPERATION AND RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER BEGINS WITH THE LEADERS OF THE LOWER HOUSES.

OUR JOB AS LEADERS IS TO CULTIVATE AND BE THE EXAMPLE FOR OTHER ON HOW TO WORK TOGETHER. THAT'S WHY; I COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND FOR THE LIFE OF ME HOW A GRAND MASTER AND A GRAND WORTHY MATRON CAN NOT GET ALONG.

I WANT YOU TO CLOSE YOUR EYES FOR A MINUTE OR TWO AND USE YOUR IMAGINATION ... IF SIS. BAKER AND I WERE ALWAYS AT EACH OTHER THROAT, NOT SPEAKING TO EACH OTHER, ALWAYS HAVING SOMETHING NEGATIVE TO SAY ABOUT EACH OTHER, I AM ALWAYS THREATENING TO

SUSPEND HER FOR TRIVIAL MATTERS, NOT LETTING HER RUN HER DEPARTMENT, AND NOT SHOWING HER ANY RESPECT.

NOW OPEN YOUR EYES AND TAKE A LOOK AROUND THE ROOM AT THE NUMBER OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS PRESENT. DO YOU THINK WE WOULD HAVE THE NUMBERS PRESENT TODAY IF SIS. BAKER AND I DISPLAYED THAT TYPE OF ATTITUDE TOWARD EACH OTHER. I THINK NOT!!

THE EXAMPLE SET FORTH ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL SHOULD BE THE SAME ALL THE WAY DOWN TO OUR SUBORDINATE LODGES AND CHAPTERS. DIGNITY...RESPECT...KINDNESS...LOYALTY

ARTICLE VII, UNDER DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL GRAND MASTER SECTION (E). STATES I MUST RENDER A REPORT TO THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE IN ITS TRIENNIAL SESSION OF ALL WORK DONE AND MY ACTIONS IN THE INTERIM THEREOF.

IT IS NOW MY PLEASURE TO LAY BEFORE YOU THE WORKS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION. IN ORDER FOR OUR NATIONAL COMPACT TO BE EFFECTIVE IT MUST HAVE HIGHLY MOTIVATED MEN AND WOMEN WITH A VISION AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS. OUR NATIONAL COMPACT MUST BE ATTRACTIVE TO MEN AND WOMEN OF GOOD CHARACTER THAT ARE COMMITTED AND DEDICATED TO ITS PRESERVATION AND FUTURE.

ON TAKING OFFICE THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE STRATEGIC PLAN WAS DEVELOPED. UNDER THE BANNER OF "ENHANCING OUR MASONIC STRUCTURE FOR A SOLID FOUNDATION IN THE FUTURE". THE STRATEGIC PLAN OUTLINED THE DIRECTIONS THE NATIONAL COMPACT WILL UNDERTAKE FOR THE NEXT SIX YEARS.

THE STRATEGIC PLAN WAS BROKENDOWN INTO FIVE CATEGORIES FINANCE, MANAGEMENT, MEMBERSHIP, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, AND PUBLIC AWARENESS/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT. FIRST LETS TAKE A LOOK AT FINANCIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

FINANCE:

- WE CONTINUE WITH PROVIDING SOUND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY ESTABLISH BY PGM FERGUSON BY PROVIDING QUARTERLY REPORTS TO OFFICERS AND GRAND MASTERS.
- MAKING PRUDENT SELECTIONS IN OUR PURCHASES OF GOOD AND SERVICES FOR NGL.
- CONTINUE TO MANAGE THE FISCAL ACTIVITIES OF THE NGL IN AN EFFICIENT MANNER.
- CONTINUE TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF REVENUES TO REDUCE DEPENDENCY ON TRADITIONAL REVENUE SOURCES. I WILL GIVE EXAMPLES OF LATER IN MY SPEECH.
- THANKS TO BRO. CLARENCE DANIELS WHO DONATED A HOUSE TO THE NGL. IT IS NOW BEING RENTED AND THOSE FUNDS DEPOSITED IN THE JEFFERSON D. TUFTS SCHOLARSHIP FUND MONTHLY.

MANAGEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- CONTINUE OPERATE AS A MANAGEMENT TEAM THAT IS EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE FOR ALL RESULTS.
- DEVELOP THE FIRST EVER NATIONAL GRAND LODGE MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS
- DEVELOP EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES BETWEEN NATIONAL GRAND LODGE, GRAND LODGES, AND MEMBERS. ALL CABINET, NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS, GRAND MASTERS AND A VAST MAJORITY OF MEMBERS ARE CONNECTED INSTANTLY TO THE NATIONAL GRAND MASTER VIA EMAIL.

- DEVELOP PROTOCOL FOR VISITATION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS TO STATE GRAND LODGES
- DEVELOP OFFICIAL DRESS CODE FOR GRAND MASTERS AND TAKING PICTURES.
- NATIONAL GRAND MASTER OR REPRESENTATIVE HAS VISITED ALL STATE GRAND LODGE ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS.
- MADE GRAND LODGES COMMUNICATIONS SCHEDULE AVAILABLE TO ALL NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS TO ESTABLISH VISITATION.
- DEVELOP SURVEY TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COUNCIL SESSION.
- RE-APPOINTED REGIONAL PRESIDENTS
- DEVELOPED OUTLINE FOR MASONIC TRIAL

MEMBERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- DEVELOP PLAN OF ACTION FOR DECLINING MEMBERSHIP
- DEVELOP FORMAT FOR MENTORING PROGRAM
- EACH NEWLY MADE MASTER MASON IS NOW PRESENTED WITH AN OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE FROM THE NGL
- EACH HEALED MEMBER NOW RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE FROM THE NGL
- APPOINTED BRO. JAMES FARRINGTON AS NATIONAL DISTRICT DEPUTY TO ESTABLISH LODGES IN STATES WHERE THE NGL HAVE NO PRESENCE.
- STANDARDIZE HEALING FEE, HEALING PROCEDURE FOR BROTHERS AND SISTERS COMING FROM JURISDICTIONS OUTSIDE OF NGL
- DEVELOP COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES FROM NGL TO STATE GRAND LODGES TO ALL LODGES.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- CONDUCT REGIONAL TRAINING FOR GRAND MASTERS'S ON STRATEGIC PLAN.
- GIVEN OFFICERS A GREATER ROLE IN THE NGL OTHER THAN THE TRADITIONAL DUTIES
- PLEASE TO ANNOUNCE THE NGL MASONIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY WILL BECOME REALITY AFTER THE CLOSE OF THIS TRIENNIAL SESSION.
- PROVIDED MEANINGFULL WORKSHOPS AT COUNCIL SESSIONS.
- APPOINTED DEAN FOR NGL MASONIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY...HON KENNETH CAMPFIELD PGM, SMOOTH ASHLAR GRAND LODGE OF GA.
- COURSE OUTLINE FOR THE NGL MASONIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED.

PUBLIC AWARENESS/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN TO COUNTER NEGATIVE VOICES AND UNTRUE STATEMENT ABOUT NGL.
- ESTABLISHED THE NGL HISTORICAL AND RESEARCH SOCIETY. TO COLLECT, ORGANIZE AND DISSEMINATE ALL DOCUMENTS OF HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE. BRO CHRISTOPHER BELCHER OF GA, HAS BEEN APPOINTED CHAIRMAN
- COMPACT MAGAZINE AND THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE HISTORICAL AND RESEARCH SOCIETY WEBSITE IS NOW ANOTHER OFFICIAL ORGANS OF THE NGL
- YRB IS NOW ONLINE AND AVAILABLE TO OUR MEMBERSHIP AS WELL AS MILLIONS OF VIEWERS WORLDWIDE. THANK YOU SIS. VONDERIA YELDELL THE EDITOR FOR THE YRB ALONG WITH THE OTHER STATE EDITORS THEY HAVE DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB IN PUBLISHING THE ONLINE BULLETIN.
- MADE DONATION TO THE FRIENDS OF PRINCE HALL MONUMENT FUND WHICH WAS UNVIELED MAY 15, 2010 IN CAMBRIDGE, MA.

- MADE DONATION TO AMERICAN RED CROSS FOR HAITI RELIEF FUND.
- CREATED THE JOHN T. HILTON AWARD OF EXCELLENCE MEDALLION WHICH WILL BE GIVEN AT THE BANQUET TO A VERY DESERVING MEMBER.
- ESTABLISH NGL LEGAL DEFENSE TEAM TO ADVISE THE NGL ON LEGAL MATTERS THAT MAY COME BEFORE IT.
- ESTABLISH NATIONAL GRAND LODGE PRAYER BREAKFAST WHICH HAS BEEN A HUGE SUCCESS. THANK YOU R.W. LEE SINGLETON, NATIONAL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, SIS. DORIS TIPTON. PAST NATIONAL GRAND WORTY MATRON AND COMMITTEE FOR THEIR WORK.
- HAVE ON SALE AT THIS SESSION LICENSE PLATE HOLDER BEARING THE NAME OF OUR ORGANIZATION AND GOLF SHIRTS BEARING OUR NAME. THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE ALTERNATIVE REVENUES I SPOKE ABOUT EARLIER.
- CREATED DATA BASE OF EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR COMMUNICATING WITH MEMBERS.

THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS ACHIEVED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS. HAVE WE MADE A FEW MISTAKES? YES! , DID WE ACCOMPLISH EVERYTHING WE STARTED OUT TO DO.? NO!

BUT, I WANT TO THANK OUR LORD AND SAVIOR FOR WHAT HE HAS ALLOWED US TO ACCOMPLISH. GOD HAS BEEN GOOD TO THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE. HE HAS BROUGHT US OVER AND THROUGH MANY DIFFICULT MOMENTS.

WE STILL HAVE A VISION. WE STILL MUST CONTINUE TO BUILD UPON THAT SOLID FOUNDATION THAT WE HAVE STARTED.

YES... I AM A RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION AS YOUR NATIONAL GRAND MASTER FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS. JUST WANT TO THAT MAKE THAT CLEAR.

LET ME BRIEFLY OUTLINE WHAT WE MUST DO THIS SESSION AND FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

- SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS WILL COME BEFORE YOU THIS SESSIONS. I ASK THE BROTHERS TO PASS ALL THAT ARE SUBMITTED. ALL WILL IMPROVE THE OPERATIONS OF THE NATIONAL COMPACT AND HOW WE WILL HANDLE ISSUES THAT MAY COME BEFORE IT. THIS IS PROGRESS...MOVING FORWARD.
- THE NGL DUES HAS INCREASED BY \$5 PER MASTER MASON THIS YEAR. I PROPOSE THAT WE TAKE \$5 PER MASTER MASON AND MULTIPLY IT TIMES THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AND ADD THOSE FUNDS TO THE NGL BUILDING FUND. THIS IS PROGRESS...MOVING FORWARD.
- I AM ASKING THE NATIONAL ORDER OF EASTERN STARS TO INCREASE THEIR DUES BY \$5 AND THOSE FUNDS PER MEMBER BE AIRMARKED TO THE NGL BULILDING. WE ARE LOOKING AT ALMOST \$25.000 PER YEAR ADDED TO THE BUILDING FUNDS, COMPARED TO THE \$3-4,000 OR LESS PER YEAR. WE NOW RECEIVE. THIS IS PROGRESS...MOVING FORWARD.
- RECOMMEND NATIONAL GRAND LODGE DUES BE SUBMITTED SEMI-ANNUALLY RATHER THAN ANNUALLY. THIS WILL ENABLE THE NGL TO COLLECT DUES FROM MEMBERS THAT ARE NOW BEING MISSED. THIS WILL ALSO ALLOW STATES TO GIVE A TRUE ACCOUNT OF ITS MEMBERSHIP. THIS IS PROGRESS...MOVING FORWARD.
- RECOMMEND THAT THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE PRE-REGISTRATION FEE OF \$65.00 BE INCREASED TO \$75.00 AND LATE REGISTRATION TO \$85.00. THE \$65.00 REGISTRATION FEE HAS BEEN

IN PLACED FOR 12 YEARS. WITH THE CONTINUED INCREASE IN HOTEL BANQUET EXPENSES HAVE REDUCED AND IN SOME CASE ELIMINATED ANY PROCEED FROM THE BANQUET TO THE HOST GRAND LODGE. AS IT STANDS NOW THE HOST GRAND LODGE RECEIVES \$35.00 FOR EACH TICKET SOLD LOCALLY...THIS WILL INCREASE TO \$40.00. THIS IS PROGRESS...MOVING FORWARD.

- CONTINUE TO DEVELOP STANDARDIZE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO EFFECTIVELY INCREASE THE OPERATIONS OF NATIONAL GRAND LODGE AND GRAND LODGES... MOVING FORWARD.
- WORK WITH GRAND LODGES IN DEVELOPING GOALS THAT ARE IN LINE WITH NATIONAL GRAND LODGE STRATEGIC PLAN... MOVING FORWARD.
- WORK CLOSELY WITH REGIONAL PRESIDENTS IN ACHIEVING ITS GOALS FOR REGIONS... MOVING FORWARD.
- WORK CLOSELY WITH GRAND MASTER COUNCIL IN ACHIEVING ITS GOALS.... MOVING FORWARD.
- ORGANIZE YOUNG ADULT DIVISION FOR MALES BETWEEN THE AGES OF 17-21... MOVING FORWARD.
- CONTINUE TO PROMOTE MEANINGFUL WORKSHOPS AT COUNCIL SESSIONS... MOVING FORWARD.
- PROVIDE OUR LOCAL LODGES WITH MORE HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE... MOVING FORWARD.

- TO HAVE DISPLAYED IN EVERY LODGE THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE SENTIMENTS WHICH CREATED THE MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE... MOVING FORWARD.
- PROMOTING A MORE RELAXED COUNCIL SESSION BY DRESSING DOWN... MOVING FORWARD.
- APPOINT NATIONAL GRAND LODGE PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR TO PROMOTE THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE... MOVING FORWARD.
- HAVE AN OFFICIAL “NATIONAL GRAND LODGE DAY OR AFRICAN LODGE HERITAGE DAY” TO CELEBRATE OUR HERITAGE AND EXISTENCE... MOVING FORWARD.
- INCREASE THE AMOUNT EACH STUDENT RECEIVES FROM THE JEFFERSON D. TUFT SCHOLARSHIP FUND... MOVING FORWARD.
- AND CONTINUE TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE. AND FOREVER “ENHANCING OUR MASONIC STRUCTURE FOR A SOLID FOUNDATION IN THE FUTURE”...MOVING FORWARD.

LET ME TAP YOUR THOUGHTS FOR A FEW MINUTES. I WANT TO RAISE THIS QUESTION FOR YOUR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. “HOW MUCH DO WE REALLY CARE ABOUT OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS”? “HOW MUCH DO WE REALLY CARE ABOUT OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS”?

DO WE REALLY CARE? HOW SINCERE ARE WE ABOUT REACHING OUT AND CARING FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS?

WE HAVE BROTHERS AND SISTERS JOINING OUR ORGANIZATION AT ALARMING RATE THROUGHOUT THIS NATIONAL COMPACT.

BUT OUT OF THOSE NUMBER HOW MANY OF THOSE JOINING WILL BE WITH US NEXT YEAR? DO WE CARE IF THEY ARE STILL WITH US NEXT YEAR? OFTEN FOLKS WILL JOIN OUR LODGES AND CHAPTERS AND BEFORE LONG THEY ARE GONE.

DO WE CARE ABOUT THOSE WHO JOIN AND THEN DRIFT AWAY? DO WE CELEBRATE THEIR COMING INTO OUR ORGANIZATION FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS AND SIX MONTH LATER NOT TO SEE THEM AGAIN? DO WE GOOD BROTHERS AND SISTERS REALLY CARE ABOUT THEM?

THE NEXT QUESTION FOR YOUR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION IS HOW DO OUR MEMBERS GET LOST?

WELL MEMBERS TEND TO NIBBLE THEMSELVES AWAY FROM OUR ORGANIZATION. I WANNA THINK THAT'S HOW WE LOOSE SO MANY MEMBERS. ONCE IN THE ORGANIZATION LITTLE BY LITTLE THEY NIBBLE THEMSELVES AWAY. YOU ARE PROBABLY ASKING YOURSELVES WHAT I MEAN BY THAT. WELL THEY HAVE A LITTLE FRUSTRATION HERE, A LITTLE DISAPPOINTMENT THERE, THERE A LITTLE MISUNDERSTANDING THIS MONTH, FEELINGS GET HURTED, LATER ON THEY WILL MISS ONE MONTH MEETING, STAY HOME THE FOLLOWING MONTH, DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING THE FOLLOWING MONTHS, PRETTY SOON THEY HAVE NIBBLED THEIR WAY... AWAY FROM THE ORGANIZATION.

...AND THE FIRST THING YOU KNOW YOU HAVE NOT SEEN THEM IN MONTHS. THEY NIBBLE... THEIR WAY... FROM THE ORGANIZATION. THEY JUST DIDN'T JOIN YOUR LODGE OR CHAPTER ONE MONTH AND DECIDED THEY ARE NOT COMING BACK ANY MORE.

THEY NIBBLED THEIR WAY IN BECOMING LOST. SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY THEY BECAME DISCOURAGED AND FELT AS IF NO ONE CARED. AND BEFORE LONG THEY WERE GONE...THEY MAY HAVE HAD SOME PROBLEMS, THEY HAD SOME DIFFICULTIES, AND THEY MAY HAVE RAN INTO SOME HARDSHIP, SOME TRIALS, AND TRIBULATIONS, SO THEY GRADUALLY AND SLOWLY NIBBLED THEMSELVES INTO LOSTNESS.

HOW DO MEMBERS DRIFT AWAY FROM OUR ORGANIZATION BIT BY BIT, EXPERIENCE BY EXPERIENCE? THEY FEEL WE DON'T REALLY CARE AND BEFORE LONG THEY ARE GONE.

HOW DO WE KNOW IF A MEMBER IS LOST? MEMBERS NIBBLED AND NIBBLED AND NIBBLED AND NIBBLED AND GRADUALLY NIBBLED THEMSELVES AWAY. WE MUST CARE ENOUGH FOR OUR MEMBERS TO KNOW IF IT'S JUST ONE THAT IS MISSING. WE MUST BE CONCERNED. WE MUST SINCERELY CARE FOR OUR MEMBERS. WE MUST HAVE A GENUINE INTEREST AND WELLBEING IN THE CARE OF OUR MEMBERS.

HOW MUCH DO WE CARE? I WANT TO CHALLENGE YOU TODAY. WHEN YOU KNOW SOMEONE THAT'S REGULARLY ATTEND MEETINGS IS MISSING FOR 3-4 MONTHS CONSECUTIVELY... WHAT DO YOU DO?

WHAT DO YOU DO ABOUT THAT MEMBER THAT YOU KNOW IS MISSING? CHECKOUT YOUR LODGE OR CHAPTER WHEN YOU RETURN HOME. IS SOMEONE MISSING? DO YOU CALL THEM TO FIND OUT HOW THEY ARE DOING? DO THEY NEED YOU THE LODGE OR CHAPTER IN ANYWAY? DO YOU CALL THEM TO CHECK ON THEM TO FIND OUT WHETHER THEY ARE GOING THROUGH SOMETHING THAT'S TOUGH AND DIFFICULT?

THEY NIBBLE THEIR WAY... AWAY FROM THE ORGANIZATION. HAVE YOU TAKEN THE TIME TO CALL THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER OR WORTHY

MATRON AND REPORT A MEMBERS HAS NOT BEEN TO A MEETING IN AWHILE

HAVE YOU EVER TAKEN TIME TO GO BY THEIR HOME OR WHERE THEY WORK TO CHECK ON THEM? BECAUSE THEY JUST DID NOT MAKE A CONSCIENCE DECISION TO NOT COMEBACK ANYMORE...THEY NIBBLED THEIR WAY FROM THE ORGANIZATION. HOW MUCH DO WE CARE?

OUR MEMBERS MUST KNOW THAT WE CARE FOR THEM. THEY MUST KNOW WE ARE THERE FOR THEM AND WE MUST KEEP WORKING AT IT AND WORKING AT IT UNTIL THEY KNOW... WE CARE ABOUT EVERYONE.

IN CLOSING WHEN YOU RETURN HOME. I WANT YOU TO TAKE YOUR BIBLE AND TURN TO LUKE 15: AND READ VERSES 4, 5 AND 6. PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO VERSE FOUR.

THE SHEPHERD CARED ENOUGH FOR HIS SHEEP TO KEEP UP WITH THEM AND COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE AT THE END OF THE DAY. HOW DID THE SHEPHERD KNOW ONE SHEEP WAS LOST? HE CARED ENOUGH TO KEEP UP WITH THEM. 96, 97, 98 99 ONE IS MISSING.

MAY THE GRAND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE CONTINUE TO BLESS AND KEEP YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND THIS MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE?

THANK YOU

*WON. CLYDE L. SHEPARD, 33rd
MW NATIONAL GRAND MASTER*