Prince Hall Shriners stress civic involvement

By William S. Dickerson
Illustrious Potentate
Jerusalem Temple No. 4
Prince Hall Shriners

The Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine of North and South America and its jurisdictions, Inc., is a charitable fraternal organization whose members are all Prince Hall Freemasons dedicated to the welfare and extension of Prince Hall Masonry. Its major programs are those of benevolence in the largest sense.

Its ladies auxiliary, the Daughters of Isis, is also a charitable organization whose membership is composed of the wives, mothers, widows, daughters and sisters of our members.

The Shriners wear the red fez, which is an old Afro-Arabic symbol of learning and prominence. On parades and other occasions, several types of regalia are worn by the membership.

The Drill Patrols, the Marching Units, the Oriental Bands, the Drum and Bugle Corps, the Horse Patrols, the Motorcycle Patrols wear gaily colored costumes.

Such apparel is worn to promote and publicize Prince Hall Masonry. Shriners firmly believe that their role in the Prince Hall Masonic family is to "stage the show" for our beloved Masonic institution, but stage it in a manner that does nothing to harm the prestige, dignity and high renown of Prince Hall Masonry.

Shriners do not hold themselves out as above the Symbolic lodges of Prince Hall Masonry or any of its appendant bodies. The membership of the Mystic Shrine is Continually urged to always devote a portion of their time and efforts to their Symbolic Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters, Knights Templar Commanderies and Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Consistories.

Shriners whole - heartedly subscribe to the principle that the Prince Hall Masonic Family can be no stronger than its weakest link, therefore, it is necessary whenever possible that all shriners affiliate themselves with and participate in the work of all appendant groups of the Prince Hall Masonic Family.

We believe that a fraternal organization, to justify its existence, must make definite contributions to the welfare of the communities where its membership resides, by disbursing charity, encouraging participation in civic activities, and assisting the economic development of such communities.

We, as a fraternal organization, believe that full citizenship can only be attained by full participation in the civic life in our communities. Therefore, it is required of each member of our Order in 188 Temples throughout our country, that he qualify and register as a voter and, in addition, he must see to it that five other persons not previously so qualified, do the same.

We are not interested in how our members vote; that is a matter for their own conscience and judgment. But, we do insist that they qualify and vote, and thus do their part to insure good government for their communities.

SHRINER WELCOMING COMMITTEE — Meet the Baltimore leadership of the Prince Hall Shriners and the Daughter of Isis who have put out the welcome mat for an estimated 3,000 visitors are involved in the Shriners' Joint Gala Day activities now underway in Baltimore. They are (from L); Imperial Deputy of Desert James Richardson; Imperial Deputy of Oasis Aaron Williams; local program chairperson Daughter Janie Wright; local program co - chairman Noble Laban C. Maulsbey, Illustrious Commandress Elizabeth Greer and Illustrious Potentate William S. Dickerson Jr. They are affiliated with Jerusalem Temple No. 4 and Jerusalem Court No. 1, Daughters of Isis.

The Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine has had a long and colorful history in the annals of Prince Hall Masonry ever since the Prince Hall Shrine Order was established as an Imperial Council.

Prior to the turn of the 20th century, Shrine Temples were not listed by names and numbers. The official history of temples with designated numbers began on Nov. 13, 1901 when the Imperial Council of Shriners was reorganized and incorporated in the city of Washington, D.C. It was at this time that names as well as numbers began appearing in the designation of temples.

In 1914, while Shriners in the state of Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas entered a law suit to bar Prince Hall Shriners from wearing the red fezzes and appearing in public as a masonic body.

The suit charged that black Shriners had no right to display emblems of Shrinedom or call themselves Shriners. The case was carried to the highest court in the land after a District court in Texas ruled against the Prince Hall Shriners.

After 15 years of litigation and many heart-rendering moments of agony during the 15 - year wait in the U. S. Supreme Court reversed the decision of the lower Texas District Court and ruled in our favor.

In effect, the highest court in the land said that Prince Hall Shriners did indeed have the right to appear privately and publicly as Shriners and continue the time honored traditions of fraternal work and functions.

In the suit, the Prince Hall Shriners did prove that we were a legitimate and lwful body of Masons and that we did hold proper charters and authorization to work in every branch of masonry.

The victory in the highest court of the land was a resounding one. It clearly established, once and for all, that Prince Hall Masons, worldwide, had the legal right to meet and act as Prince Hall Shriners whereever and the fraternal order was established all over the land.

With the favorable decision from the Supreme Court, the Imperial Council of Shriners, its temples and its membership, many dormant for most of the 15 years of litigation, became alive again and temples and membership rolls began to grow numerically and financially.

The record of the Imperial Council shown that Noble John G. Jones of Chicago, served as the first Grand Imperial Potentate of AEAONMS when the Order was first organized in 1898.

The record also shows that Noble Issaac L. W. Holland, Pyramid Temple No. 1, Philadelphia was the first elected Imperial Potentate of the Imperial Council of Shriners when it was reorganized and incorporated in 1901.

Since 1900, three Nobles from Jerusalem Temple No. 4 have served the Oriental Chair in the East as the elected Imperial Potentate of the Imperial Council. They were Nobles Hiram W. Watty, 1902 - 1905; John E. Murphy Sr., 1913 - 1915; and John H. Murphy Jr., 1938 - 1939.

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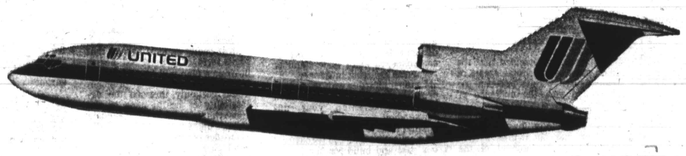

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Citizens 'bypassed?'

Venetoulis appoints task force to study Liberty Road area

Baltimore County Executive Ted Venetoulis has appointed a 98 - member task force to study revitalization efforts in the Liberty Road corridor in Randallstown.

But Venetoulis was interrupted during the announcement by the newly appointed head of the task force, who charged that the executive had "bypassed" citizens in the area in forming the task force.

Mary Basso, president of the Greater Randallstown Community Council said, "It's a shame. You are bypassing the people of the community."

Venetoulis replied, "It's a shame some civic leaders behave like the old time political bosses."

Mrs. Basso said Venetoulis rejected nominees from area citizen groups to head the task force's steering committee.

She said the leadership of the steering committee, which will develop policy for the task force, should come from area residents rather than the business people appointed by Venetoulis.

Mrs. Basso and Venetoulis exchanged pointed barbs before he changed the topic of discussion.

Mrs. Basso, who has been president of her community council for five years, said after the news conference that she had just begun objecting.

"We are not going to be used. . . This is a farce," she said.

She said she would wait and see what Venetoulis would do about changing the steering committee membership before taking further action.

In other matters, Venetoulis said he would withhold comment on a proposed Blair Lee - Steny Hoyer gubernatorial ticket until such a ticket actually materialized.

Mfum'e

(Continued from Page 1)

"How can Julian make a statement supporting Pégerleau without consulting the people of the Fourth District?" Mfum'e asked.

The 39-year-old announcer said he has researched the legislation introduced by Julian for the past four years — "it probably would fill a tumble," he said.

Mfum'e said Julian's lack of leadership is the main reason he is opposing him.

"There has never been any leadership coming from him. He has been saying and doing negative things, like introducing that bill for a McDonalds food place in Mondawmin last year. That was not in the best interest of the community," Mfum'e said.

He said part of the reason he calls Julian a "phantom legislator" is the "guarded apathy of the residents of the district.

"Because of the political corruption in the city and state coupled with the fact that Julian is a strong candidate with a strong machine support, the people don't know they can make a change," Mfum'e said.

He said it is time to let Julian know that people are in opposition to what he is doing.

"The Fourth District is made up of thousands, not just Emerson Julian," he said.

Mfum'e said he has been urged to run by "influential" people in political, academic and legal arenas, although he would not name the people who support his campaign for a Fourth District councilmanic seat.

Study says media not 'indispensable'

Newspapers, television and radio are not as indispensable to people's lives as has been commonly believed, a University of Maryland journalism school report said this week.

Associate Professor James Grunig said the report did not fully support the common assumption that "the mass media provide vital information to help people make decisions affecting their lives.

"With the exception of some 'women's news,' which may be very useful to homemakers, and financial reports, little mass media content is of practical use to the average media consumer," said Grunig, who conducted the study.

"When people need information for a specific reason, they turn to specialized magazines, informed people or libraries."

He said people read newspapers, listen to the radio or watch television simply when they have the time.

The study, funded by the Foundation for Public Relations Research and Education, found that most media consumers read, listen or watch a wide range of topics.

"Because most mass media content is unrelated to individual lifestyles, people simply read the articles they enjoy the most," Grunig said.

Court says county landlords must report minority tenants

The Maryland Court of Appeals says it is not unconstitutional for counties to adopt regulations requiring landlords of large apartment buildings to report on whether they are renting to minority tenants.

The high court reversed a Montgomery County Circuit Court ruling that the minority renting regulations adopted by Montgomery County are unconstitutional.

The regulations, adopted in 1973, require landlords of buildings with 25 or more tenants to report quarterly on the number of black and spanish - speaking tenants and applicants they have.

The goal of the regulations was stated as making landlords more aware of the ethnic and racial composition of the tenants in their buildings.

The county's Human Relations Commission filed a lawsuit against Fields Road Corporation, one of the Landlords, in 1974 for failure to submit the reports.

But the corporation said the regulations were unconstitutional.

The Montgomery County Circuit Court upheld that contention, ruling that the distinction between large and small landlords was unconstitutional and the "Spanish - speaking" definition was too vague.

The Court of Appeals struck down the Circuit Court's decision.

Judge John Eldrige, writing for the high court, said the distinction between landlords with 25 tenants and those with less is constitutional because there is a rational basis for the distinction.

"The chairman of the Housing Committee of the Montgomery County Human Relations Commission testified that over 90 percent of the fees complaints concerning housing discriminatior related to apartments and not houses," Eldridge said.

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