Strategizing THE STAR through the Synergy of Service: Education, Wellness and Volunteerism

111th Annual Grand Communication
“Commitment to Service”

Hosted by Savannah Masonic District No. 1
June 16 - 19, 2009
Savannah Marriott Hotel
Savannah, Georgia
Salutations
To the Honorable Ramsey Davis, Jr., 33˚, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, Jurisdiction of Georgia; Brother Marvin Knight, Grand Worthy Patron; 13th Past Grand Worthy Matron, Sister Vashti Grimes Pullen; 12th Past Grand Worthy Matron, Sister Belle S. Clark; 11th Past Grand Worthy Matron, Sister Ruby C. Clayton; 8th Past Grand Worthy Patron, Brother Aaron Kent, 32˚, 7th Past Grand Worthy Patron, Brother Felton L. Hudson; 6th Past Grand Worthy Patron, Brother Willie V. Coleman; Elected and Appointed Grand Chapter Officers Past and Present; District Worthy Matrons, District Worthy Patrons, Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, Past and Present; Officers and Members of Subordinate Chapters; visiting Jurisdictions, Heads of Concordant Bodies, and all assembled to make up this Grand Body at the 111th Annual Communications of Prince Hall Grand Chapter, Jurisdiction of Georgia, Good Morning!

Greetings
It is another year in the Grace of God, our heavenly Father who has bestowed upon us His mercies to make us stronger, better and wiser for the course that is set before us -- still committed to do that which is right, decently, in order . . . and with love. Thanks be to God for allowing us to assemble together again at the 111th annual Grand Communications, hosted by the Savannah Masonic District No. 1, here in the city by the Sea and in the home of our 9th Grand Worthy Patron, Brother Marvin Knight, and the Grand Associate Matron, Sister Lynnette Hymes. To that end, I am indeed elated and honored to welcome you to this our 111th Grand Session and its deliberations for Prince Hall Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, Jurisdiction of Georgia. With great joy, I am pleased to see each of you in the splendor of this audience. To God be the Glory for he has kept us to see each other’s face again and renewed our acquainted spirits, one to another, to make us more committed to this beautiful Order of which we all embrace its works with dedication, loyalty, courage, faith and love.

State of the Order
The Jurisdiction of Georgia, Order of the Eastern Star, continues to thrive in peace and harmony. However, there is room for more growth and improvements. Trials and tribulations have abound; overwhelming odds have knocked and entered our doors; the challenges have seemed boisterous; but, we have maintained to do that which was right and stood for the good of the Order. God has kept us and is using His Hand to direct our path for the Order. Therefore, we must persevere and become more committed than ever to maintain this great Sisterhood for the future of this organization. We must continue to build upon the TEAM Concept (together everyone attains more) to improve our Order and its work, and, in addition:
- Abide by Prince Hall Grand Chapter’s adopted Rituals, Standards and information.
- Remain Sista[ly in all of our dealings
- Stay connected and work together to improve and make our Chapters stronger and better
- Respect the Order, its leaders, officers, etc.
- Resolve and ratify financial issues

“Let all things be done decently and in order…and with love.”
• Become technological minded and use Technology to promote Jurisdictional information
• Enhance programs to reflect the objects and purposes of the order
• Become more recognizable in the communities throughout the Jurisdiction for noteworthy works and causes

Goals Accomplished
• Activated Technology TEAMS
• Greater use of Technology to disseminate information faster throughout the Jurisdiction
• Started renovations of our properties in Savannah
• Have become financially sound with the exception of one glitch

Charitable Contributions
Contributions were made to charities such as UNCF, American Cancer Society, NAACP, Morris Brown College restructuring, Fort Valley State University Scholarship Foundation, Community Plights/concerns, and relief to Eastern Star Sisters to aid in their distress in times of trouble.

Necrology
Sunset will eventually claim all that we now possess. We pay tribute to and remember those who have fought the fight, kept the faith of this life and is now in a place of reward. We hold deep within our heart of hearts the “precious memories that nothing can take away.” Eighty-three Sisters and Brothers have answered the call of our Heavenly Father and have made their transition to the heavenly realm. Let us always remember their lives and the Service they rendered to this Order. More importantly, let us live a life ready to answer the Master’s call and meet the sunset’s glow.

Youth
Blessings are continuously raining down upon our Youth in this jurisdiction. They are beautiful and are becoming our strong leaders of tomorrow. Prince Hall Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, Grand Youth Chapter, Jurisdiction of Georgia, held its 33rd Annual Grand Session in Savannah, GA, at the Savannah Masonic Temple and the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum, April 24-25. What an enjoyable event for approximately 350 Youth and Adults who attended the historical Session here in Savannah. Kudos is to the Savannah Masonic District Youth Chapters, Youth Directors and District Youth Coordinators for a job well done. You have set the precedence for 2010 and the 34th Grand Youth Session which will be hosted by Fitzgerald Masonic District No. 23, in Douglas, GA. Grand Youth President S’Oterica Tift did an outstanding job in presiding and executing the agenda for the 33rd Grand Youth Session. S’Oterica will continue to lead the organization and its training at the Grand Youth Retreat to be held in Americus, GA, July 9-11, 2009. Congratulations are also extended to the Grand Youth King and Queen and to all Chapters participating in the contest. Because of these efforts, eighteen (18) Scholarship aids will be awarded from the Grand Youth funds for Youth. Thanks to the parent Chapters and the Grand Youth Directresses for their supervision and guidance. We must continue to support and stay “committed” to our Youth, so that they too can emerge as leaders today, tomorrow and many years to come.

“Let all things be done decently and in order…and with love.”
Scholarship
Funds raised totaled more than $124,000.00 for the Sol C. Johnson Scholarship program in June 2008 through the Lillian E. Blake Queens’ Extravaganza and were awarded to deserving students meeting scholarship criteria. We will continue to Praise and support programs supporting the scholarship fund and the educational endeavors of young adults. We are so thankful to each of the queens who represented at the bronze, silver, gold and platinum levels. We are especially proud of the 2008-2009 Prince Hall Grand Chapter Queen, Thomasville District No. 10, the late Sister Carolyn Thompson, reigning ever so graciously until God’s final call for scholarship workers. Let us pause to remember her reign, her life and legacy as well as the Thompson family and the contributions made to the building of the 2008 scholarship fund.

Conferences
We have been fortunate to attend Grand Sessions, Conferences and other concordant bodies representing Prince Hall Grand Chapter. Accompanying the Grand Worthy Matron to the jurisdiction of SC for its 99th Annual Grand session were: the Grand Worthy Patron Marvin Knight, the Grand Associate Matron Lynnette Hymes, the Grand Associate Patron Sam McDonald, the Grand Associate Conductress Saundra Parks, Past Grand Worthy Matron Vashti Pullen, Sister Brenda Grimes Little-Carwell, and District Deputy Grand Master Joseph Hymes. It was also an honor to represent and bring greetings on behalf of Prince Hall Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, Jurisdiction of Georgia, at the annual convocations of the Yorkrite Bodies-Heroines of Jericho, Cyrene Crusades; the Grand State Assembly for the Order of the Golden Circle; and the chartering of the Ladies of the Circle of Perfection. Additionally, the Grand Associate Patron Sam McDonald accompanied the Grand Worthy Matron to the 61st Conference of Grand Worthy Matrons and Grand Patrons in Los Angeles, CA. The Southeast Conference was unable to hold its Regional Meeting in January due to the inaugural activities. The Southeast Conference met in Los Angeles during the session of the Grand Masters, Grand Matrons and Grand Patrons. Your Grand Worthy Matron was elected Chairperson of the Southeast conference of Grand Worthy Matrons and Grand Worthy Patrons. The Southeast Conference will meet in Nassau, Bahamas for its next meeting, June 26-28, 2009. The jurisdiction will continue to support and make visitations as affordable in the future.

Conference Awards: Shayla Johnson, daughter of Past District Worthy Matron Sharee Johnson, of Vidalia District No. 24, Catherine Forrest, District Worthy Matron, was awarded $1000.00 in scholarship funds from the 61st Conference of Grand Matrons and Grand Patrons held in Los Angeles.

State of the Country
Our Country is faced with economic crises and issues. The problems of disarray exist and affect the core of families in this country and throughout the world. We are at this point in time. We cannot afford to continuously lay blame and point fingers. Thus, we must band together, put our trust and hope in God’s hand, our hope for ages past, and our help for years to come. Our shelter from the stormy blast. . . God is still on the throne. He is able to deliver and see us through by His hand and in His time through His chosen leaders. So let us “Stand”, hold fast and do our earnest part through prayer and “Service” to support this country and its plan of salvation. God did not bring us this far to leave us. He will make a way for us. It is HE who has allowed us to experience the fruition of a dream that is now a reality. Character has taken precedence over the color of our skin. Consequently, for the first time in American history in this country, we have witnessed the election and
inauguration of the 44th President of these United States of America, an African American. So, let us pray and pray mightily for our President, President Barack Obama, the Congress, the World, our State, and its leaders. With President Barack Obama, a man of prayer at the helm, our faith in God who is always by our side, God will hear our prayer, strengthen and heal our economy!

**Recommendations**

1. Practice and conduct the ritualistic opening and closing at all meetings as outlined in the adoptive rites of our order.
2. Use the Jurisdiction of Georgia’s sanctioned ritualistic work and studies to conduct our meetings and guide our Studies.
3. Continue to upgrade and use the website as much as possible to disseminate and facilitate information to chapters and districts throughout this jurisdiction. Those without internet access will continue to receive mailings.
4. Implements a plan of action to assist smaller chapters with meetings to maintain and increase membership and retain charters.
5. Continue to establish timelines to renovate and improve the living conditions of all Prince Hall Grand Chapter’s properties.
6. Utilize Technology TEAMS in the chapters and districts to work with the Grand Chapter’s Technology TEAM to pass on information to District and Chapter members.
7. Enforce the ritualistic School of Instruction once per quarter for subordinate Chapters and a minimum of two District Schools of Instruction per year.
8. Study and work in the Queen of the South Degree and the Amaranth Degree one quarter each per year in subordinate Chapters and at the District level.
9. Continue the yearly support of the Grand East Building Endowment endeavors and other charities.

**Closing**

As we make sacrifices and present ourselves for Service, “committed” to this Order, let us do so in a spirit of Love, Faith and Prayer. Let us become more committed to live out the virtues of the heroines we represent and earnestly strive to emulate in each of our lives daily. Let us work peaceably with one another to move this Jurisdiction forward. We can be more committed to this great Order and its work if we take on the virtues of the daughter, Adah.

Remember, the promise; the commitment for the honor of another (our Order); the pledge and vow entered into freely to STAND and perpetuate the Order and its works. So as our Heroine, let us commit ourselves to Stand and stay focused to make this beautiful order survive through our Subordinate Chapters, Districts and this Grand Chapter. Let us pledge to support our officers and leaders; endeavor to attend chapter and district meetings and functions; participate in chapter and community projects; and do what it takes to make this Order become greater and better STANDING decently, in order and with Love. We cannot quit, give up or give out as we STAND firm in our commitments as Adah. We must continue to encourage and work with those who are willing to work because this Order has always thrived upon the faithful few-- no Excuses, Excuses, Excuses, “for where would the order be if it had not been for the faithful few?” We must persevere for the legacy of those who will follow us in the works that we do. No, don’t you quit.

“Let all things be done decently and in order…and with love.”
Always remember that we do not walk alone. He walks with us because He is able to carry and see us through. The challenge is to enter into our closets of Prayer, come out ready to push, to motivate and to encourage others to be more committed. Let us show that commitment as: the midwives in the days of Moses; in the prayer of Hannah; in Rahab for her household; in Ruth for her loyalty; in Esther for her sacrileges of boldness and courage; in Martha for her faith; in Electa for her love of others and God; and in the virtues of our Heroine Adah, one who stood and sacrificed life as Christ sacrificed His life for you and me. Therefore let us hold fast and always remember that God the Almighty is able. Do so in the planting of your Garden by:

Planting five rows of Peas:
- Preparedness
- Promptness
- Perseverance
- Politeness, and
- Prayer

Add some Squash:
- Gossip
- Criticism, and
- Indifference

Cultivate it with some lettuce: Let us be
- Faithful
- Loyal, and have
- Love for one another

Commit ourselves to do what no garden can be without TURNIPS so, TURN UP:
- For meetings
- With a smile
- With new ideas, and
- With determination to make a difference.

For the love of this Order, Stand Committed in the Light and unveil ourselves so that WE can give, which is our reasonable Service. And, when you have done all that you can do, you just STAND, loyal to this beautiful Order thereby guarding its integrity, credibility, and status today, tomorrow and for many years to come. Together we will—decently, in order, and with LOVE for the good of the Order. Thank you!

Your humble servant,

Sister Marilyn Moore
The 14th Grand Worthy Matron
Prince Hall Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star
Jurisdiction of Georgia

Addendum: 2007-2008 Stewardship Itinerary attached
**Grand Worthy Matron’s Stewardship Report**  
June 2008 to June 2009

The following stewardship report outlines an account of visitations and other activities of the Grand Worthy Matron.

**2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 30-July 1</td>
<td>Office, Atlanta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 10-11</td>
<td>Office Days, Atlanta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 14-16</td>
<td>Attended Jurisdiction of SC 99th Annual Grand Chapter Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 16-17</td>
<td>Office Days, Atlanta</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 18</td>
<td>Attended Laura Growth No. 118 Chapter Meeting, Hinesville</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>Attended Laura Growth No.118 and Hour Glass Lodge No.113</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 25-August</td>
<td>Received and Processed Scholarship Applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>Resume work at Dublin High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Month devoted to processing scholarships</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2</td>
<td>Vidalia District No. 24 Family/Friends’ Day Outing, Uvalda, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 1, 2, 3</td>
<td>Edmond Family Reunion, McRae/Dublin</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 9</td>
<td>Statesboro District No. 18 Family/Friends’ Outing, Reidsville</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 16</td>
<td>Top Ten Ladies of Distinction Affair: Five Men on a Stool; Received Award on behalf of Prince Hall Grand Chapter Grand Youth Chapter; Savannah</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 23</td>
<td>Executive Board and Scholarship Meeting Canceled</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 30</td>
<td>Attended Statesboro District Meeting, Statesboro</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>Butler District No. 20, District Meeting, Montezuma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 12-14</td>
<td>Office: Processed out first mailing of scholarship checks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 13</td>
<td>Executive Board Meeting: Prince Hall Day Weekend Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 20</td>
<td>Attended Testimonial for Grand Master Ramsey Davis, Jr., Atlanta</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 25-28</td>
<td>Attended and representation at Yorkrite Bodies Convocation (Heroines of Jericho and Cyrene Crusaders), Atlanta</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 4</td>
<td>Louisville Masonic District No. 22 District Meeting, Wadley, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>Office Day, Atlanta</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 11</td>
<td>Dalton Masonic District No. 21 District Meeting, Leevry, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>Pinned G. Lecturer Sallie Mills, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 17-19</td>
<td>Homecoming Activities, Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley</td>
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<td>October 19</td>
<td>Speaker: Griffin Lodge/Chapter Anniversary, Griffin, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 25</td>
<td>Fitzgerald District No. 23, District Meeting, Rochelle, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 26</td>
<td>Tri County Chapter Holy Royal Arch Masons’ Anniversary, Dublin</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Rising Sun No. 115/ Hat off Lodge No. 409 Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 6</td>
<td>Vashti Grimes Pullen Chapter Meeting, Atlanta</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Griffin Consistory Banquet, Newnan, GA</td>
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November 7 Executive board Meeting, Dublin  
November 15 Funeral Services of PDAstt.D Carl Lane, Dublin November  
November 15 Millen District No. 16 K. C. Childers Awards Banquet, Waynesboro  
November 22 Fidelity Chapter No. 45 Anniversary Celebration, Dublin  
November 30 Vidalia District 24 District Workshop, Vidalia  
December 4 Wake Services for Marion Forrest, Vidalia  
December 5 Funeral Services of Past Grand Senior Warden, Mose Davis, Macon  
December 6 Chartered Member of LOCOP under NC Jurisdiction, Macon  
December 20 Funeral Services of Brenda Smith, Rose of Beulah Chapter No.251  
December 22-23 Laura Growth No. 118 & Hour Glass Lodge No. 113 WM/WM Ball, Hinesville  
December 22-23 Board Committee Meeting & Office Days, Riverdale  
December 26 Dublin District No. 19, Administrative Degree Work, Dublin  
December 29-30 Office Work Days, Riverdale

2009

January 3 Millen District No. 16, Administrative Degree Work, Sylvania  
January 10 Savannah District No. 1 District Meeting, Savannah  
January 10 Inspected all Real Estate Properties of Prince Hall Grand Chapter  
January 17 Met with Property Contract to Refurbish/Renovate Properties  
January 17 Represented and Participated in MLK Jar, Parade Activities, Dublin  
January 24 2nd Grand Officers’ (MWPGL/PHGCOES) Retreat, Macon  
January 29 Office Day, Riverdale  
January 29-31 State In-service, FACS Teachers, Merreret  
February 2 Funeral Services of Ms. Mattie Riley, Fort Valley  
February 6 Wake Services of Mr. Harold J. Parks, Sr., father of GAC Saundra Parks, Macon  
February 7 Mid-Planning Winter Meeting, Macon  
February 13 Office Day, Riverdale  
February 21 Scholarship Banquet in Horner of DM Josephine Simpson, Americus District No. 14, Americus  
February 28 Attended Grand Workshop of Wilhelmina Parrish Grand Court, Heroines of Jericho, Macon  
March 6-7 Attended and represented at the Grand State Assembly/Council of Deliberation, Atlanta  
March 14 Ruth Chapter 102, Centennial Anniversary, Westin H., College Park  
March 19 Office Day, Riverdale  
March 19-21 FCCLA Leadership Conference, Athens  
March 28 Attended Vidalia District No. 24, District Meeting, Reidsville  
March 29 Family Day Services, Forrest Chapel Baptist Church, Jonesboro  
March 29 Gate City Chapter No. 48, Five Point Tea  
April 4 Attended Augusta District No. 2 Meeting, Wrens  
April 5 Photo Shoot, Savannah Masonic District No.1, Good Samaritan Project  
April 6 Site Visit/Planned for 111th Annual Session, Savannah Marriott  
April 7-8 Office Days, Riverdale  
April 18 Attended Millen District No. 16, District Meeting, Sylvania

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<tr>
<td>April 24-25</td>
<td>Attended Vidalia Masonic District Banquet, Vidalia</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>Attended the 33rd Grand Youth Session, Savannah</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>Visited 6th Past Grand Worthy Patron Willie V. Coleman, Savannah</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13-17</td>
<td>Attended the Conference of Grand Masters, Grand Matrons and Grand Patrons, Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>Rose Metter Chapter No. 24, Initiation, Metter</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 20-21</td>
<td>Office Days, Riverdale</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>Sadie D. May’s Memorial Day Outing, Atlanta Consistory</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>Dublin Masonic District No. 19 District Banquet, Cochran</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 10</td>
<td>End of 2008-2009 School Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 11-12</td>
<td>Office Days, Riverdale</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>Americus District No. 14 District Meeting, Arabi, GA</td>
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