

M. W. UNITED GRAND LODGE OF IOWA A.F. and A.M. (P.H.A.)
Office of Grand Master

1422 DeWolf Street Des Moines 16, Iowa
August 25, A.L. 5943, A.D. 1943

To the Worshipful Masters, Wardens and Brethren of all constituent Lodges of the M. W. United Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., (P.H.A.) for Iowa and Jurisdiction:

GREETING:-

According to my anticipated plans I was fortunate to attend The International Conference of Grand Masters, Etc. in Chicago, Illinois August 15-18, 1943. This was indeed a great convocation, and without a doubt many of the greatest Masonic votaries of our times were there brought together under the guidance of Hon. John Wesley Dobbs, 33, the M. W. Grand Master of the great Jurisdiction of Georgia, president and Past Imperial Potentate of the Mystic Shrine. Grand Master Dobbs is to be complemented for the wonderful job of having brought together the representatives of 21 Jurisdictions of the 36 Jurisdictions in our country. First may I say that I will go more into detail of the transactions of the Conference in my Address to our M. W. Grand Lodge in its 57th Annual Communication. However, to briefly give you some of the highlights, here are some of the things discussed:-

1. It is hoped that all of our Grand Lodges will some day in the near future be known as the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of ????????? and Jurisdiction. This will do much to wipe out illegal or clandestine lodges in our several Jurisdictions. Among the many other proposals to wipe out clandestine masonry in our groups, the one to have a pilgrimage to the shrine of Prince Hall and place flowers upon his grave on invitation of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts every 10 years seemed to have appealed to me as the most demonstrative effort. At this time the original Warrant or Charter as secured by Prince Hall for African Lodge No. 459 from England in 1784 will be brought out of the vaults of the New England Trust Company to be seen by the visiting Grand Lodge Officers. Though this plan was originally discussed and adopted at the Conference meeting in Buffalo, New York in August 1941, I think it should be here included for your information. Personally I would suggest to the Conference that we should not space the placing of flowers on our most honored Brother's grave every 10 years, preferably every Memorial Day and at the same time to place flowers on the grave of Past Grand Master William Henry Upton of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Washington (white.) This I believe could be done for the nominal cost of \$5.00 to each of the Grand Lodges sending flowers, and for a triple purpose; first, to pay tribute and honor to two great men and Masons; secondly to Prince Hall as the father of our cause in this country, and thirdly, the most staunch defender of our rights and privileges.
2. What constituted permanent members in the various Grand Lodges:- For instance only Past, Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Treasurers and Grand Secretaries constitute the permanent members of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. The present Masters and Wardens of their several subordinate Lodges being members only during their term of office as such. This I know to be contrary to what was originally intended to constitute the members of the or a Grand Lodge. Many of you will recall that it has not been so many years ago that the Grand Lodge of Iowa (P.H.A.) corrected an irregularity of this Jurisdiction in this respect.

3. In all Grand Jurisdictions represented at one of the sessions of the Conference except New Mexico and Iowa the Deputy Grand Master is elected, and in case of the death of a Grand Master or his extended absence from his Jurisdiction, the Deputy Grand Master takes charge of the Jurisdiction. Their reasons are they claim is that is the American custom, but does not that not do away with the theory of three principle officers and from many other angles interfere with the intended purpose of a deputy Grand Master? In considering this portion of the deliberations of the Conference, I am reminded of the statement as recorded by John in the book of Revelations Chapter 22, verses 18 and 19 especially when recalling what we consider as Landmarks.
4. Modes of entrance and recognition were discussed and demonstrated by the representatives present as done in their respective Jurisdictions. This I will try to demonstrate to you to the best of my ability and memory as I make my official visits to our various Subordinate Lodges. Of the several demonstrated only two were the same as Iowa, Massachusetts and Illinois.
5. There were many other private discussions held between myself and other representatives present at the Conference, particularly in regards to relief departments of Grand Lodges, which I will attempt to convey to you at our 57th Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge and in the various Subordinate Lodges as I visit them. Personally I think much more or some time at least should have been spent in discussing this phase of our work in the Conference proper, as it has been the Relief Departments of our various Grand Lodges that have caused so much trouble, or financially breaking so many of our Grand Jurisdictions in the past years and especially during the depression.
6. The Conference also recognized the Grand Lodge of New Mexico as headed by Hon. M. C. Rhoten, M. W. Grand Master. I personally know that to have been the correct and wise procedure as I had personally been acquainted with some of the august masonic personalities involved in the controversy.
7. The Conference also set the wheels in motion for establishing an International Grand Lodge of Research, as I understand it, belonging to The International Conference of Grand Masters, but to operate under the Jurisdiction of Massachusetts. Since the Grand Lodge of Iowa (white) has located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa the world's greatest Masonic library and Museum, and our relationship with that Grand Lodge in regard to their magnificent Library under our dear friend, Mr. C. C. Hunt, their Grand Secretary and librarian, is everything we could expect; and since we have located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa one of our most progressive lodges, I promised Grand Master Roberts of the Jurisdiction of Massachusetts our whole-hearted support in regard to any information which may be gleaned from the shelves of that wonderful library, in his search for any historical date or material for the Lodge of Research. This I am sure will meet with the approval of every member on the roster of Mt. Olive Lodge No. 17, the logical ones to do such research in that library.
8. The only criticism I have to make of the Conference is, that its presiding Officers should not be affiliated with other branches of the fraternity which meets at the same time as the Conference in any Official Capacities, as this forces them to

divide their time with the other branches and yet draw their expenses for attendance from the Conference of Grand Masters (rail-road fare etc.) Furthermore, as a precedent it is expected that all Presidents of the Conference should be active Grand Masters, and as it is also expected that Grand Lodges pay the expenses of their Grand Masters for attendance thereto, then why should not the Jurisdiction ~~over which~~ the present President of the Conference pay his expenses? This was not done at the meeting of the Conference just closed; that I don't quite understand.

Correction:- As recorded on the 4th page of the Grand Lodge Roster of Grand Officers for 1943 - 1944 recently released, quote, "Extra assessment of \$1.00 holds good for 57th Grand Communication." This is not true; there is no extra assessment existing today in the Constitution and Code of the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa (P. H. A.) Reread Article XIII, Section 1 (c) as reported in Bulletin No. 1, 1943 - 1944. This states that Grand Lodge Dues are \$2.00 per year, \$1.00 for each and every member on rolls of lodges June 1st. *Dec. 1st of each year*

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I have not as yet received notice of some of you having donated your portion into the Grand Relief Fund. If you have not already done so, please take care of this matter at your earliest opportunity, as it is all important that the several and all Lodges of this Jurisdiction contribute their share to our widows and orphans promptly.

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Hiram Lodge has elected a new W. M. Bro. Julins Collins, 924 Harrison Street, Davenport, Iowa, replacing Bro. Harold Buckner, who for certain reasons could not finish out his term in office. The craft of No. 19 will miss Bro. Buckner, but they say they have his counterpart in Bro. Collins. We all wish Bro. Collins the greatest of success.

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Doric Lodge No. 30 raised Bro. Herschel Hubbard and entered, passed and raised Bro. L. Bush, August 8th. For the conferring of three degrees in one day the Grand Lodge receives \$5.00.

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The plans for our District Meeting of Lodges No. 19, No. 21, No. 29 and No. 39 are moving along in fine style. This should be a great meeting and possibly one of my last, as last week my Draft Board placed me in 1-A.

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Recent deaths as reported to this office

Bro. Henry Moore, No. 3. Records show that he was raised in Sumner No. 3, 1897.

Bro. S. E. Beatty, No. 2

Bro. Payton Reeves, P. M., No. 18, died a member of No. 2.

We have deposited the bodies of our departed brethren in the silent tomb. We cherish their memory in our breasts, and their spirit we return to God who gave it. To their bereaved families we recommend them to the greatest Comforter of all, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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Lodges should be more prompt in sending in information regarding activities in your respective lodge, as such information is of great interest to your sister lodges.

Fraternally and sincerely yours,

CARL M. MAYS, GRAND MASTER