

personal letter to each delinquent brother in an effort to help.

### **E. MEMBERSHIP PROFILES**

Membership profiling is now available as a feature in MORI. Take advantage of this feature it will provide your lodge and other a valuable skill bank that will be a valuable source of information to support Masonry



## **CHAPTER 21** **PRINCE HALL FREEMASONRY**

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

With the introduction of Resolution No.16 - To Recognize Prince Hall Masonry in Wisconsin - Representatives to the 145th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin F. & A.M. in June 1990, granted recognition to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Wisconsin, Inc. As of 1991, seven other Grand Jurisdictions have granted recognition to Prince Hall Freemasonry in their respective states: Connecticut (visitation), Nebraska (full fraternal recognition), Washington (visitation), Colorado (visitation), Minnesota (visitation), North Dakota (visitation), and Idaho (full Fraternal recognition). Recognition of Prince Hall Masonry in Minnesota by the Minnesota Grand Lodge includes recognition of Prince Hall lodges in North Dakota, Montana and Canada. The same situation exists in Colorado; Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Colorado has a lodge in Wyoming.

### **B. PRINCE HALL FREEMASONRY HOW ESTABLISHED**

Prince Hall Masonry, whose membership is predominantly made up of black men, traces its origins to March 6, 1775, when Prince Hall, a freeman and fourteen other free black men were initiated into Masonry in Castle William (now Fort Independence) in Boston Harbor by Masonic Lodge No. 441 (attached to the British Garrison 38th Regiment of Foot, as a Military Lodge from the Grand Lodge of Ireland). In 1776, an assembly of unaffiliated black Masons organized African Lodge No.1 in Boston. Eventually, following several lost applications

and delays, on September 29, 1784, the lodge was granted a Charter by the Grand Lodge of England as African Lodge No. 459, but was not delivered until three years later. The Charter reached Boston on April 29, 1787.

At this time, African Lodge No. 459 was the only body in Massachusetts, which held a true Warrant from the Grand Master of England, the acknowledged "Mother Grand Lodge of the Masonic World." The actual Charter is in existence today in a safe deposit vault in Boston, and is the only original Charter issued from the Grand Lodge of England in the United States.

On May 18, 1787, African Lodge No. 459 was formally organized in Boston under their England Charter with Prince Hall as Worshipful Master, and a membership of eighteen Masters, four "Crafts," and eleven Entered Apprentices.

African Grand Lodge was organized on June 24, 1791 in Boston, Massachusetts with Prince Hall as Grand Master. Two additional lodges were then established - one in Philadelphia and one in Rhode Island. Following Prince Hall's death in 1807, a delegate convention of the three lodges changed the name to Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A.M. in memory of the founder. All subsequently organized Prince Hall lodges trace their authority back to this Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

## **C. PRINCE HALL FREEMASONRY IN WISCONSIN**

The origins and basis for the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Prince Hall Masons, the ten existing Grand Lodges of Prince Hall Masons from Illinois created F. & A.M. of Wisconsin Inc. under Charter on June 25, 1925. In the year 1878, Brown Lodge No. 25, later to become Widow's Son Lodge No.1, was organized in Milwaukee. In 1893, Triangular Lodge No. 53 was established in Superior; Capital City Lodge No. 75, organized in Madison in 1901; W.K. Kennedy Lodge No. 106, in Beloit, in 1906; L.H. Palmer No. 115 was organized in 1924 in Milwaukee, later becoming Blazing Star Lodge No.4.

### **A current roster of Prince Hall Lodges is as follows:**

Widow's Son Lodge # 1, 1218 West North Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53205 meets second & fourth Tuesday - 7:30 PM;

Capital City Lodge #2, 100 Blair Street, Madison, WI 53703, meets first & third Saturday - 7:00 PM;

W.B. Kennedy Lodge #3, 1127 Eclipse Ave., Beloit, WI 53511, meets first and third Saturday - 7:00 PM;

Blazing Star Lodge #4, 1218 West North Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53205, meets first & third Tuesday - 7:30 PM;  
Corinthian Lodge #5, 1218 West North Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53205, meets first & third Thursday - 7:30 PM;  
Southgate Lodge #6, 1848 Mead Street, Racine, WI 53403, meets second & fourth Saturday - 7 :00 PM;  
Ashlar Lodge #7, 1218 West North Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53205, meets second & fourth Thursday - 7:30 PM;  
Tyre Lodge #8, 1218 West North Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53205, meets second & fourth Friday - 7:30 PM;  
Joppa Lodge #9, 4054-58 7th Ave., Kenosha, WI 53140, meets first and third Sunday - 7:00 PM;  
King David Lodge#10, 1218 West North Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53205, meets second & fourth Tuesday - 7:30 PM;  
True Square Lodge #11,1218 West North Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53205, meets first and third Tuesday - 7:30 PM.

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Sparta, WI 54656

On June 18, 1990, the delegates at the Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Wisconsin, Inc. voted to adopt a resolution granting the same fraternal recognition to the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin F. & A.M. This historic action by both Grand Jurisdictions now allows visitation between the two Grand Lodges and their respective constituent lodges. It was mutually agreed that the only form of recognition required would be a current dues card, as is the practice in the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin.