

FORMING THE CONVENT GENERAL, PRINCE HALL AFFILIATED

Holiday Inn Select
2240 Democrat Road
Memphis, TN

Harry J. Spencer Priory #4
Third Annual Conclave

April 24, 2003

Eminent Prior Michael E. Steele duly opened Harry J. Spencer Priory ritualistically at 7:20 p.m. Eminent Prior Steele requested Knight Marshal (acting) Robert R. Ambrose to gather among himself a fitting group of visitors from distant Priories and present them for reception.

Present were:

Knight Lawrence E. Harper, Eminent Prior, Alpha Priory#1
Knight Willie E. Moseley, Past Eminent Prior, Alpha Priory#1
Knight Noble Shoto, Knight Warder, Alpha Priory #1
Knight James Shepherd, Eminent Prior, John R Gilmore Priory #2
Knight Robert A. (Bob) Wilson, Past Eminent Prior, John R Gilmore Priory #2
Knight Robert Ambrose, John R Gilmore Priory #2
Knight John White, John R Gilmore Priory #2
Knight Raymond Tucker, Eminent Prior, John W Thompson Priory #3
Knight Elmer S. Reed, Deputy Prior, John W Thompson Priory #3
Knight LeRoy R. Gary, John W. Thompson Priory #3
Knight Arthur L Taylor, Eminent Prior, Daniel W Frazier Priory #5
Knight Leon Shackelford, Deputy Prior, Daniel W Fraser Priory #5.

All were given honors, and the Present and Past Eminent Priors were escorted to the East. The Knights of Pythagoras of Orange Mound Lodge rendered flag ceremony and it was motion by Deputy Prior Adlai S. Coffee that we go to the altar with donations for this group of young men and seconded by P.E.P. Willie E. Mosley, voted, and passed. Donations at the altar were \$50 and Eminent Prior Steele asked the Knight Prelate (acting) Leon Shackelford #5 to offer prayer.

Eminent Prior Steele called for the roll call of officers of Harry J. Spencer Priory #4, they were as follows:

Eminent Prior - Michael E. Steele - Present
Deputy Prior - Adia S. coffee - Present
Knight Warder - Frank Lloyd - Present
Knight Registrar - Ronald E. Pillow - Present
Knight treasurer - Willie I. Tabor - Absent
Knight Prelate - Gary B. Williams - Absent (acting) Knight Leon Shackelford #5

Knight Orator - Karl W. French - Present (acting) Knight Leroy Gary #3
Knight Herald - LeBrone Roberts - Present

Knight 1st. Lecturer Kenneth Brown - Absent - Standing in Knight Fred Carthorn #4
Knight 2nd. Lecturer Isaac L. White - Present
Knight 3rd. Lecturer James (Rocky) Dallas - Present
Knight 4th. Lecturer James E. Harris - Present
Knight Marshall Robert J. Maise - Present (acting) Knight Robert or Ambrose #2
Knight Sentinel Marvin Blythers - Absent (acting)
Knight Noble Shoto #1

Eminent Prior then called the roll call of priories and they were as follows:

Alpha Priory #1 - Present with (3) representatives
John R Gilmore #2 - Present with (4) representatives
John W Thompson #3 - Present with (3) representatives
Harry J Spencer #4 - Present with 12 representatives
Daniel W Fraser #5 - Present with (3) representatives

Eminent Prior Steele declared there being a constitutional number of officers and members from Harry J. Spencer ray primary #4 as well as representatives hailing from three different priorities from three different jurisdictions presence, he so declared this third session of the Harry J. Spencer Priory #4 duly opened for the purposes of forming organizing and electing officers for the Prince Hall Affiliated Convent General and let all here present govern themselves accordingly.

Deputy Prior Adlai S. Coffee welcome everyone to Memphis TN (acting) on the Bank of the Mississippi River home of the Blues birthplace of rock'n'roll father of the Blues WC handy king of the Blues B.B. King come the black Moses Isaac Hayes, Crown Prince of dance Rufus Thomas, the soul and now gospel singer and minister Al Green, the civil rights museum and the Lorraine Hotel and the legendary Beal Street. Home of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Noble of the Mystic Shrine North and South America and its Jurisdiction, Incorporated. in addition to music Memphis is well known for its BBQ and I say as you go through life, we find no word that gives us greater joy than the word welcome and we want to say Welcome, Welcome, Welcome.

Past Eminent Prior Robert A. (Bob) Wilson #2 to Eminent Prior Michael E. Steele and his corps of officers on behalf of the priorities from jurisdictions of Illinois Pennsylvania Ohio and New Jersey stated, "We would like to thank you for which for that very form warm welcome and that he for one and he's sure his counterparts are willing to accept the offer but the deputy prior has offered from this fine city and the hospitality already rendered Thank You, Thank You, and Thank You".

Eminent Prior Steele on behalf of Harry J. Spencer Priory #4 acknowledged with great respect the Eminent Priors, Past Priors, Deputy Priors, Knight Warders, and distinguished members of the K.Y.C.H. wherever they may be dispersed around the globe as well as our Most Worshipful Grand Master Benjamin Lawson Hooks who allows us to meet in this jurisdiction I like to say good afternoon and welcome to this special session of Harry J. Spencer priority #4 we are greatly honored to host this very important and historic meeting. Thank you for coming as we unite as one to form a Prince Hall affiliated convent general and it is without a doubt, they're all now and forever after will remember this day as paramount in the organization's development.

Today we will successfully create governing body that will preserve the integrity of the Order, sustain its principle as well as federalizing its ritualistic works and governing practice. We will now call a representative of John R. Gilmore Priory #2 to come forth and read a draft of a Prince Hall Affiliated Convent General Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations and he trusts you have already mailed your suggestions regarding this matter to Knight Wilson in advance. After each article is read, we will vote to adopt or come to some kind of compromise.

Past Eminent Prior Robert A. (Bob) Wilson #2 came to set the stage came to set the stage for this Constitutional Reading established by Alpha Priory #1 basically the “Mother” of all of us as far as the Knight of the York Cross of Honour. What is a Convent General? The Convent General is the oversight body that will encourage the Rules and Regulations of all subordinate bodies.

Here tonight we are going to try to put everything in perspective as far as that particular body mind you know that we five (5) individual Priorities. Alpha#1, John R. Gilmore #2, John W. Thompson #3, Harry J. Spencer #4, and Daniel W. Frazer #5. At that meeting in Baltimore, we agree to not authorize or set-up any additional Priorities until the Convent General is in place.

He stated that he has in his possession a draft Constitution by laws and general regulations of the convent general of the Knights of the York Cross of Honour Prince Hall Affiliate.

Convent General, who is a member? All Past Priors, all Past Eminent, all Eminent Priors, all Deputy Priors, and the third elected official the Knight Warder. The voting members of those who we just discussed. He called for a show of hands of all those who have had the opportunity to read over the draft. He stated that he was going to read each Article and Section and if you have questions those beside or behind him, just clear your throat and he will identify you.

P.E.P. Wilson read Article 1, Section 1-2 and 3. Eminent Prior Steele rose and requested to the Knights. What is your pleasure? Deputy Prior Adlai S. Coffee moved the adoption and second was by Knight Isaac L. White #4. Ready for the question. Unready by the Knight Noble Shoto #1 stated that he thought we were here for election officers and to let the Convent General handle the Constitution and after some discussion Knight Steele call for the question. All in favor stand P.E.P. Willie E. Mosley stated that he has a substitute motion, failed. Original motion voted and passed. He stated that if anyone has a question to stand, state your questions and at the end of the draft we will vote for the initial packet and the membership agreed.

P.E.P. Wilson addressed P.E.P. Mosley and Knight Shoto as to the purpose of the joint meeting is that we were forming a Convent General. Convent General's must have a Constitution By-Laws and General Regulations prior to being formed. After further explanation, P.E.P. Mosley rose and stated that he is not trying to stop this reading and he is willing to go along with the majority.

Article V - Eligibility - Section 1 motion by Knight Coffee and the term in office should be two full terms seconded by Eminent Prior Michael E. Steele, voted, and passed.

Knight John White #2 question who set-up the Convent General? P.E.P. Wilson stated that the officers were set-up their Annual Grand Conclave Discussions concerning Article VII Powers,

Section 2. Question raised by E.P. Steele #4, E.P. Arthur Taylor #5, and Knight James (Rocky) Dallas and after which it was so stated that only for cause will this occur. Knight Elmer S. Redd, Deputy Prior #3 raised the question on By-Laws Section 10 speaking on the Blanket Bond, it was further stated that all of that is good and continued to look for better Bonds. Deputy Prior Coffee #4 spoke on Section 11 - The Grand Treasurer General. P.E.P. Wilson stated that if we changed the Treasurer, he would have to close the account in whatever state and open one in another state, so we need to be very careful who we have as treasurer.

Eminent Prior Steele #4 motion that Section 29 of the By-Laws that a New Priory upon petition for the same fifteen (15) or more Knights and a second by Deputy Prior Elmer S. Redd, #3 voted and passed. Deputy Prior Adlai Coffee stated that the Code of General Regulations Section 14 should be changed to show the Knight Warder in the third position and the Knight Herald in the eighth position - so noted. Motion by Eminent Prior Steele, #4 to delete section 16 in its entirety and second it by Eminent Prior Raymond Tucker, #3, voted and passed.

P.E.P. Wilson at the conclusion of the reading stated Knights here are the readings how say you Deputy Prior Adlai S. Coffee #4 rose and move for adoption of the Amendment, corrections, corrections, deletions, and addition to the Constitution, By-Laws, and the General Regulations as it becomes a part of the Convent General of the Prince Hall Affiliated Body, and second by Knight Isaac I. White, #4, P.E.P. Willie Mosley #1, voted and passed.

P.E.P. Robert A. (Bob) Wilson #2 asks the Knights to stand and give themselves a hand. He continued with the election of Officers and stated that they would come from the Priorities in this order:

MOST EMINENT GRAND MASTER GENERAL - PRIORY #1

RIGHT EMINENT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER GENERAL - PRIORY #2

RIGHT EMINENT GRAND WARDER OF THE TEMPLE - PRIORY #3

RIGHT EMINENT GRAND PRELATE - PRIORY #4

RIGHT EMINENT GRAND SENECHAL - PRIORY #5

Eminent Prior Lawrence E. Harper #, place in a nomination

P.E.P. Willie E. Mosley for M.E.G.M.G., voted in past.

P.E.P. Wilson presenting a letter from P.E.P. Henry C. Small for consideration and placed his name in the nomination for R.E.D.G.M.G. voted and passed.

P.E.P. Raymond Tucker was placed in nomination for R.E.G.W.T.

E.P. Michael E. Steele was placed in a nomination for R.E.G.P.

E.P. Arthur Taylor was placed in nomination for R.E.G.S. The last three were voted and passed.

P.E.P. Wilson called for the Knights Registrar to go before the Altar and cast one unanimous vote for the first five elected officers in the Convent General Prince Hall Affiliated of the United States of America. He called on the Knight Marshall to present the Newly Elected Officers for Installation where he did install Knight Willie E. Mosley Knight, Knight Henry C. Small, Knight Raymond Tucker, Knight Michael E. Steele, and Knight Arthur Taylor as the first five elected officials of the now Convent General, Prince Hall Affiliated World Wide he then gave all charge and asked the Knight Marshall to escort P.E.P. Willie Mosley, M.E.G.M.G. to the East.

Knight Mosley thanked the body for the confidence they showed in him he stated that he is a charter member of this convent general and also a Charter member of Alpha Priory #1 thank you. He called for volunteers of the Committee on Jurisprudence to work with Knight Robert A. (Bob) Wilson chairperson.

Eminent Priory Lawrence E. Harper #1 made a subjection that each Priory making donation to the Convent General for seed money to get them started. Knight Mosley asked Knights Harper to head up the Committee on Finance & Budget.

Committee on Revised Constitutions Knight Robert A. (Bob) Wilson.
Committee on Sick and Welfare Eminent Prior from each Priory-Knight Tucker Chair.
Committee on Foreign Correspondence/Public Relations- Knight Michael E. Steele
Official Convent General Photographer-Knight LeBrone like LeBron Roberts #4

A question was asked. What will be the name? The name will be the Convent General of the United States, Prince Hall Affiliated and we would be looking at the Incorporate Papers. Eminent Prior Raymond Tucker of John W. Thompson Jr. Priory #3 of Illinois presented to the Convent General. The Levi L. Rose Priorate #1 By-Laws and requested official approval to Convent General to either sanction its existence in the in the Jurisdiction of Illinois or approve them as a Convent General official female auxiliary to the K.Y.C.H. This brought about much discussion and Knight Mosley stated to take this information to your room and study it and we will vote on it tomorrow. Eminent Prior Steele after all Convent General matters had concluded he asked Deputy Prior Coffee to read the Committee Assignments for Harry J. Spencer Priory #4 and for the Chairs to pick up the book and be ready to report for tomorrow's session. The committees were as follows:

Project and Planning-Robert E. Pillow
Scholarship-Robert J Maise
Finance & Budget-Frank Lloyd
Investigation-Willie I. Tabor
Sick & Welfare-Karl W. French
Lecture-Kenneth Brown
Audit-James E. Harris
Appeals & Grievances-LeBrone Roberts
Community Involvement-Fred Cawthon
Eminent Prior Address-Gary B. Williams

Eminent Prior Michael Steele called the Craft from Labor to Refreshment at 10:05 PM. SECOND DAY SESSION of the Harry J. Spencer Priory #4 and the convict general was called from refreshment to labor at 8:15 AM.

Reading of FIRST SESSION minutes were waived.

Eminent Prior Steele asked Knight Willie Mosley, M.E.G.M.G. if he was ready to conclude with unfinished business regarding the formation of the Convent General, he stated his business could wait.

Eminent Prior Steele called for the proceedings of the Second Annual Communication and 3rd Mid Conference of Priory #4 meeting by Knight Registrar Ronald E. Pillow.

Second Annual Communication were read and motion by the Deputy Prior Coffee to adopt with all necessary corrections and second by Knight Lloyd, voted and passed. Communication from Alpha Priory #1 – PROCLAMATION - By virtue of the power in me, I Lawrence E. Harper do hereby summon all Knights of the Knights of the York Cross of Honour to attend the 16th Annual Convocation, Saturday June 21, 2003, Ramada Inn Plaza Hotel in Columbus, Ohio, and he would like to extend this invitation to all Priorities especially the officers of the Convent General. There's a tremendous amount of committees to be assigned. All Knight Registrars to forward a list of all your Officers to include name, address, phone number, etc.

Most Eminent Grand Master-General Willie E Mosley call the Convent General back to order to continue the unfinished business in reference to the Levi Rose Priorate #1 issue. It was moved by P.E.P. Robert A. (Bob) Wilson that the information concerning Levi Rose Priorate #1 be tabled and second by Knight Lloyd, voted and passed.

Remarks:

Knight James Shepherd, Jr. Eminent Prior, John R. Gilmore Priory #2 made some remarks and thanked Harry J. Spencer #4 for the splendid Conclave.

Knight Raymond Tucker, Eminent Prior, John W. Thompson Jr., Priory #3 stated it's always good to be in the Jurisdiction of Tennessee He always enjoys our hospitality.

Knight Arthur L. Taylor, Eminent Prior, Daniel W. Frazier #5, stated that New Jersey has truly enjoying them.

Pictures were taken of all that were present and Knight Harold LeBrone. Roberts #4 to be archived in the Convent General for Charter purposes.

Eminent Prior Adlai E. Coffee First Official duty, he thanked everyone and stated with God all things are possible we will work together and continue with said business of this Priory #4 and close this Third Annual Conclave at 12:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Pillow 33°, K.Y.C.H.
Knight Registrar