

**GIVING HONOR TO THE GRAND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE, WHO HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY, THIS DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE.**

**TO THE HON. OSCAR MACK, PAST NATIONAL GRAND MASTER, TO HON NORMAN WOODARD, PAST NATIONAL GRAND MASTER...**

**TO THE NATIONAL CABINET, TO ALL NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS, PAST NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS, PAST NATIONAL GRAND LODGE OFFICERS, PAST GRAND WORTHY MATRONS AND PAST GRAND MASTERS, GRAND WORTHY MATRONS, GRAND OFFICERS AND GRAND MASTERS, TO ALL MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, COMRADES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. GOOD MORNING. I BRING YOU GREETINGS FROM THE MOST WORSHIPFUL NATIONAL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED ANCIENT YORK MASONS, PRINCE HALL ORIGIN, NATIONAL COMPACT, U.S.A.**

**THANK YOU GM MONROE ADDISON, AND MEMBERS OF THE MW PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE STATE OF LOUISIANA. YOU HAVE TAKEN ON A MONUMENTAL TASK OF HOSTING THIS 152<sup>ND</sup> GRAND MASTERS AND NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS WORKSHOP. IT REQUIRED CAREFUL**

**PLANNING, GOOD COORDINATION, GOOD TEAMWORK, NUMEROUS COMMITTEE MEETINGS, A LOT OF PATIENCE AND OF COURSE ONE KEY ELEMENT ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY PROGRAM OR ANYTHING YOU DO...PRAYER.**

**ON BEHALF OF THE MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE THANK YOU FOR TAKING ON THE CHALLENGE. YOUR HARDWORK, YOUR SINCERE AND DEDICATED DEVOTION TO THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE HAS PROVEN NO MATTER HOW BIG THE TASK IS... YOU CAN SUCCEED. . PLEASE JOIN ME BY STANDING AND GIVING THE MW PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE STATE OF LOUISIANA AND ITS MEMBERSHIP A STANDING OVATION FOR A JOB WELL DONE.**

**ABOVE ALL, THANK YOU THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COMPACT FOR ATTENDING THIS 152<sup>ND</sup> GRAND MASTERS AND NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS WORKSHOP. IT IS YOUR LOYALTY; IT IS YOUR SUPPORT AND DEDICATION THAT CONTINUES TO MAKE OUR SESSIONS SUCCESSFUL.**

**I APPRECIATE THE GREAT HOSPITALITY AND RESPECT THAT HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO ME AND MORE ESPECIALLY TO THE NATIONAL**

**GRAND LODGE CABINET MEMBERS AND NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS ON OUR VISITS TO YOUR GRAND LODGE SESSIONS.**

**I THANK THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS WHO HAVE TAKEN TIME OR HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENT FOR SOMEONE FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENT TO VISIT YOUR SESSION.**

**ON OUR VISITS WE ARE THERE TO ASSIST YOU IN ANY MANNER POSSIBLE.**

**WE ARE NOT THERE TO CHEW ANYONE OUT OR MAKE ANYONE MAKE ANYONE FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE. WE ARE ALL USER FRIENDLY.**

**LET ME HAVE YOUR ATTENTION FOR A FEW MINUTES TO TALK ABOUT THE SUBJECT “A TIME FOR PROGRESS’, A TIME FOR PROGRESS”. PROGRESS IS DEFINED AS; A MOVEMENT TOWARD A GOAL OR TO FURTHER OR HIGHER STAGE; GROWTH; DEVELOPMENT; CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT.**

**WHEN WE LOOK AT PROGRESS, WE CAN LOOK AT IT IN MANY RESPECTS. MANY OF YOU ARE PARENTS AND LOOK AT THE PROGRESS YOUR CHILD’S SCHOOL IS MAKING TO INCREASE ITS TEST SCORE. WE LOOK AT THE PROGRESS OUR CITY OR COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS**

**MAKING TO INCREASE SERVICES TO ITS CITIZENS. WE EVEN LOOK AT PROGRESS IN OUR PLACE OF WORSHIP.**

**WE AS MASONIC BROTHERS AND SISTERS LOOK AT THE PROGRESS OUR LODGE, CHAPTER, GRAND LODGE AND YES EVEN THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENTS ARE MAKING DURING THE YEAR. WE ALSO LOOK AT THE PROGRESS OF OUR OFFICERS AND IF WE SHOULD KEEP THEM IN THE SAME POSITIONS.**

**ALL OF THE ABOVE IS BASED ON PROGRESS AND WHETHER WE ARE MOVING FORWARD, MAKING CHANGES, MAKING IMPROVEMENT, EXPERIENCING GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT. SEVERAL YEARS AGO I ATTENDED A LODGE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BANQUET WHERE THE HON. JAMES CLYBURN WAS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER. HE SAID IT'S OKAY TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF BEING IN EXISTENCE. BUT WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY?**

**HAVE YOUR LODGE OR CHAPTER ASSISTED IN FEEDING THE HOMELESS IN YOUR COMMUNITY? HAVE YOU ASSISTED A FAMILY THAT WAS BURNED OUT? HAVE YOUR LODGE OR CHAPTER PROVIDED WARM COATS FOR THE HOMELESS IN YOUR COMMUNITY? HAVE YOUR LODGE OR CHAPTER SPONSORED A BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE FOR NEEDY CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITY. HAVE YOU LODGE MADE**

**ARRANGEMENTS WITH LOCAL BARBERSHOP TO PROVIDE FRESH HAIRCUTS TO YOUNG BOYS GOING BACK TO SCHOOL.**

**AS IN CIVIC GOVERNMENT AND AS IN ORGANIZATION SUCH AS OURS PROGRESS CANNOT TAKE PLACE WITHOUT LEADERSHIP.**

**I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT LEADERSHIP IS THE CORNERSTONE TO GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF THIS NATIONAL COMPACT. (REPEAT)**

**THE PATHWAY TO BECOMING A SUCCESSFUL LEADER AND BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR THIS NATIONAL COMPACT AND OUR FUTURE IS THROUGH THE NGL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY. BUT FOR SOME REASON MANY HAVE NOT TAKEN TIME TO ENROLL.**

**THE STRUCTURE OF THIS NATIONAL COMPACT CAN'T FUNCTION WITH WEAK OR POOR LEADERS. WHEN WE HAVE LEADERS THAT CAN'T CARRY A MOTION OR OPEN AND CLOSE HIS OR HER LODGE OR CHAPTER PROPERLY WE ARE HEADING FOR EXTINCTION JUST LIKE THE DINOSAUR.**

**THE ROLE THAT YOU PLAY AS A LEADER IN THIS NATIONAL COMPACT IS A SPECIAL CHALLENGE. IT REQUIRES THOUGHTFUL**

**UNDERSTANDING OF OTHERS, MUST BE WILLING TO LOOK OUTSIDE OF THE BOX, BE CREATIVE, BE WILLING TO MAKE DECISIONS, HAVE A PLAN OF ACTION FOR BUILDING AND IMPROVING YOUR LODGE , CHAPTER, GRAND LODGE OR DEPARTMENT.**

**WE NEED SKILLED AND COMMITTED LEADERS AT ALL LEVELS THAT WILL HELP MEET THE CHALLENGES, WHICH WILL COME BEFORE US, NOT ONLY AS LODGES AND CHAPTERS BUT AS LEADERS OF THIS NATIONAL COMPACT.**

**SUCCESSFUL LEADERS KNOW WHERE THEY ARE GOING AND ARE AGENTS OF CHANGE BY INSPIRING OTHERS TO SHARE THEIR VISION. WE HAVE OFTEN SEEN THE PRIMARY QUALIFYING FACTOR FOR A POSITION HAS BEEN THE PERSON'S WILLINGNESS TO TAKE THE OFFICE, RATHER THAN THE GIFT OF LEADERSHIP. WE WOULD RATHER SUFFER A YEAR OR TWO BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT TO HURT THE PERSON FEELINGS BY VOTING THEM OUT.**

**OFTEN WE TEND TO OVERLOOK THE YOUNGER MEMBERS OF OUR ORGANIZATION. YOUNGER MEMBERS ARE LOOKING FOR THINGS TO DO IN THIS NATIONAL COMPACT. THEY ARE LOOKING TO BECOME LEADERS. THEY ARE LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE THEM. THEY ARE LOOKING TO PARTICIPATE WITH ENERGY AND**

**RESOURCES. THEY NEED THE OPPORTUNITY TO INVOLVE THEIR FAMILIES WITH WHAT THEY ARE DOING. THAT'S PROGRESS.**

**A LEADER WHO IS ABOUT PROGRESS WILL SET REALISTIC GOALS THAT ARE ATTAINABLE; WILL SEEK ADVICE FROM OTHERS; AND TREAT OTHERS WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT AT ALL TIMES. THOSE THAT KNOW ME KNOW I AM VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT LEADERS WITH GOOD LEADERSHIP SKILLS BEING IN POSITIONS.**

**LET ME SUBMIT FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION FOUR QUALITIES OF A GOOD LEADER. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THEY ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE PROGRESS OF NATIONAL COMPACT;**

- 1. FAITH: ABOVE AND BEYOND ALL, YOU MUST HAVE FAITH IN GOD AND THE LEADER MUST BELIEVE IN HIS MEMBERS.**
- 2. CONFIDENCE: A LEADER MUST BELIEVE IN HIS OR HERSELF, NO ONE ELSE WILL. YOU MUST KNOW THAT YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO SUCCEED.**
- 3. ENERGY: A LEADER MUST BE WILLING TO DO EVERYTHING HE/SHE ASKS OF THE MEMBERS AND MORE.**
- 4. TACT: CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS FEELINGS, COMMON COURTESY, AND COMMON SENSE ARE ALWAYS GOOD RULES TO FOLLOW IN DEALING WITH MEMBERS.**

**PROGRESS AND SUCCESS WILL COME IF YOU AS A LEADER COMMUNICATE FREQUENTLY AND OPENLY WITH MEMBERS, PROVIDE FREQUENT ENCOURAGEMENT AND MOTIVATION; PRAISE MEMBERS FOR A JOB WELL DONE; HARMONIZE DIFFERENCES; ATTEMPT TO ENPOWER MEMBERS TO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL, TAKE PLEASURE IN DEVELOPING THE LEADERSHIP TALENTS OF YOUNGER MEMBERS.**

**PROGRESS CAN ONLY TAKE PLACE IF YOU ARE WILLING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. YOU MUST BE WILLING TO FIX THE PROBLEM, RATHER THAN BEING THE PROBLEM. YOU MUST BE WILLING TO ACCEPT CHANGE IN ORDER FOR PROGRESS TO TAKE PLACE.**

**AT TIMES THE BIGGEST STUMBLING BLOCK TO CHANGE MAY NOT ALWAYS BE THE LEADER, BUT THE MEMBERS. SOME LIKE FOR THING TO REMAIN THE SAME FOR YEARS AND YEARS AND YEARS. WE AS MEMBERS MUST REALIZE WHAT WAS DONE 20-30 YEARS AGO DOES NOT WORK IN TODAY'S WORLD. WE MUST BE WILLING TO ACCEPT CHANGE, ACCEPT THE TIME FOR PROGRESS, RATHER THAN BE STAGNATED.**



**ONE THING, I CAN ASSURE YOU OF, I AM NOT GOING TO BE A LAMEDUCK GRAND MASTER. I WILL STILL LOOK FOR THE GRAND LODGES TO INCREASE ITS MEMBERSHIP, IMPROVE ITS OPERATION PROCUDURES, PROVIDE TRAINING FOR ITS OFFICERS AND MEMBERS, MAINTAIN GOOD FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONTINUE TO TREAT ITS MEMBERSHIP WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT.**

**IN CLOSING, I CHARGE YOU WITH THIS QUESTION...AM I ACCEPTING THIS TIME FOR PROGRESS OR AM I STAGNATED?**

**MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS THIS WM NATIONAL GRAND LODGE?**

**July 7, 2012**