

Order of the Knights of Pythagoras Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council

Celebrating 10 Years of Service to the Parents & Youth of Texas..

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Its not that hard to imagine that little over 10 years ago when this youth program started, that it would still be as alive

today as it was then. That focus is still alive today under the current Texas Prince Hall Masonic Leadership; The Grand Master of Texas Prince Hall Masons, The Honorable Wilbert M. Curtis, the Grand Youth Director, Charles Dewitt, the State Director, Michael L. Simms, Sr., Assistant State Director, Rahsaan Cook, and the many Youth Knights, Sir Knights, Parents,

master masons, sponsors, contributors, and to a host of others this program seems to be still going strong in the state of Texas.

In 1999 the Grand Master of Texas Prince Hall Masons was The Honorable Robert E. Connor, Jr.. Grand Master Connor thought it would be great to



The Texas KOP State Emblem

have this national recognize Prince Hall youth program in his jurisdiction. The council to oversee the program he named after the late Grand Master of Texas Prince Hall Masons and Judge, the Honorable Thomas Henry Routt. The first State Director to oversee the program was Bro. Jamal Rasheed.

The program which started out with councils in Sherman, Tx., Houston, Tx., San Antonio, Tx., Riesel, Tx., and Austin Tx. Today the councils are up to 15 and were represented in other cities such as Stafford,

Dallas, Copperas Cove, El Paso, Beaumont, Fort Worth, and

Hempstead. What makes this program so vital to our youth today is that it focuses on three areas of training; Leadership, Responsibility, and Brotherhood. Prince

Hall Masons are no strangers when it comes to these areas. In order to stay the leaders we are whether at home, work, or in the community, it is these things that drives us to be who we are. We must past these things on to our youth if they are to become the leaders of the future.

Special points of interest:

- Minority to become the majority.
- Special Guest at the KOP Conference.
- Letter from DASD Fred Walker
- Preparing for College
- 2010 Youth Leadership Conference

Minority to become the Majority...in the future.

In a CNN article it is stated that in 2050 minorities will be the majority in America according to the projections released by the U.S. Census Bureau. Minority children are expected to reach that milestone even sooner. By 2023 the bureau states that

more than half of all children will be minorities.

What makes this statement so important to us as a Prince Hall Masonic family is the much needed training we need to provide our children today in order to be leaders of tomorrow. We

can no longer focus on just today without taking better care of our tomorrow. The KOP program and Youth Camp is no longer a nice to do, but a must do when it comes to the future of our youth and Prince Hall Masonry....

TEXAS KOP PROGRAM AND ITS HISTORICAL BLACK COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY (HBCU) TOUR.

Colleges the Texas KOP Program has held conference..

Historical Black Colleges and Universities

Paul Quinn College
Dallas, Texas

Prairie View A & M University
Prairie View, Texas

Texas Southern University
Houston, Texas

Wiley College
Wiley, Texas

Non-HBCU

University of Texas @ Arlington
Arlington, Texas

In the spring of 2001 the Texas KOP program held its meeting and training at Paul Quinn College an historically black college located in Dallas. Since then the KOP program has held its youth leadership conferences at several other colleges and universities around the state. Hosting the conferences at college campuses allows our youth to experience a little of college life. At the conference they have an opportunity to sleep in the dormitories, learning in college classrooms, walking around on campus, and experience college food. It is our hope as Prince Hall Masons to send a message to our



Prairie View A&M University



Wiley College

youth about the importance of a college education. As for our high school students we try to incorporate training in financial aid and college life to the juniors and seniors. We try to give them a little more since they are so close to the time frame of attending college. Some of our boys have visited almost every college we have attended. The fact that they can say they have been there is a great accomplishment. We hope that by taking our youth to college that it will plant the seed in our youth the importance of receiving a college education and to support our HBCU's.

Some of our boys have visited every college we have attended.

Other Locations The Texas KOP has held conferences

Fort Worth, Tx
Austin, Tx
Houston, Tx

HBCU to visit in the future...

Jarvis Christian College
Texas State College
Huston Tillotson University



Texas Southern University

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Prairie View A&M University



2009 Youth Leadership Conference held at Wiley College School of “The Great Debaters”



For some people they probably never heard of Wiley College until a production crew pulled up and starting filming one of the best movies of all time “The Great Debaters”. This movie which was directed and starred in by Denzel Washington was entertaining and educational. In July of 2009 the Texas KOP held their Youth

Leadership Conference at Wiley College and received an opportunity to walk around and learn of its history. Also a part of Wiley College history is the fact

that the fraternity of Omega Psi Phi, the first chapter in Texas was originated here at this college. This also explains the excitement behind RWDGM Michael T. Anderson and ASD



Rahsaan Cook (Omega Men)

The Youth Knights and

Sir Knights had an excellent time. There were a lot of events planned and competition throughout the weekend. The Youth Knights also held a Debate Competition between councils and the Texas KOP program vs the Arkansas KOP program. The guest speaker for our 10th year Anniversary was our own Grand Master of Texas Prince Hall Masons, The Honorable Wilber M. Curtis. Grand Master Curtis spoke in the beautifully constructed chapel of Wiley College.

The panel provided insight to their decisions and how things were when they were coming up.

Special Guest @ the KOP Conference

At our 2009 Youth Leadership Conference we were honored to have special guest such as the Past Most Excellent Grand High Priest,

Roosevelt Huggins who also serves on a Local KOP Councils Board of Regents, currently serving as Most Excellent Grand High Priest,

Willie J. Tate, current Right Eminent Grand

Commander, Tony Moore, current State Director of Arkansas, Edward Beale (along with his Youth Knights), and Assistant State Director RA McBribe of Louisiana KOP Program. Our Special Guest had an opportunity to sit on a panel discussion with the high school juniors and

seniors as the youth discuss the worst decision they ever made and how they would do things differently. The panel provided insight to the youth decisions and provided insight as to how things were when they were coming up. The also provided advice on how to better handle the decision making process.



Texas Knights Templar participates in the KOP Conference



Meet another group of Sir Knights in the Prince Hall Family called the Knights Templar. The Right Eminent Grand Commander Tony Moore and Sir Knight Grand

Recorder Clary Glover performed in a part of the ceremony by knighting the KOP high school juniors and seniors in preparation for leaving the KOP program and entering college, military, or workforce. The Knight Mentorship

Ceremony prior to the knighting was written by Assistant State Director,

Rahsaan Cook and was the first ever in the program. This first class of graduates being knighted was named the Michael L. Simms, Sr. Class of 2009 after the State Director who was certainly appreciative of the honor.





The Honorable Wilbert M. Curtis
Grand Master
Texas Prince Hall Masons
Awarded the
MV Thomas H. Routt Grand Council
“Legacy Award”



Thomas H. Routt Grand Council “Legacy Award”

The Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council was started back in 1999. At this year's conference the Grand Council honored 5 of the original members who currently serve as part of the Grand Council today. Many thanks to our Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons, The Honorable Wilbert M. Curtis who served as one of the original members. The Youth Knights and Sir Knights are proud of their Grand Master. The Youth Knights proudly calls the Grand Master, their Grand Master as he has appeared at mostly every Youth Leadership Conference. The Grand Master has

only missed one Youth Leadership Conference due illness, and in his absence he would send Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Michael T.

Anderson who also frequently shows up even when Grand Master is present. The Grand Council also recognized its first State Director, and Past Deputy Supreme Master Knight, Jamal Rasheed. SD Rasheed spearheaded the Grand Councils beginning under the Late Past Grand Master, Robert E. Connor, Jr.

Honorees also include Honorary Past State Director, William Scott who spent time traveling with

the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Council #5 (Austin) opening up new councils around the State. Senior Advisor Charles Clayborne of the now Charles H. Anderson, Council #4 was also given the “Legacy Award”. SK Anderson started off assisting with then council Marching to Manhood #4, At Senior Advisor Clayborne request, recommendation by the State Director, and approval of Grand Master Curtis, this council was renamed the Charles H. Anderson, Council #4 in memory of Sir Knight Anderson.

2009 KOP Focus: The Need for Change within our Youth

We are certainly proud of electing our first African American President. His call for change has resonated with voters all over the world. This year the Texas KOP program will focus on the need for change



within our youth today. Is there a need for change and what should that change consist of? The biggest question we need to ask is “Can we make a difference”? Our answer should always be “Yes we Can”.....

The Youth Knights proudly calls the Grand Master, their Grand Master...



2010 KOP Focus: “Facing your Giants”

How to face your challenges...

The bible speaks of how David faced Goliath, one of his biggest challenges. He reminds us a little of the great boxer called “Muhammad Ali” who faced all of his challengers with a little trash talk. David let Goliath know that he was going to be defeated. He knew who he had in his corner to defeat his challenger. Ali knew how great he was therefore his opponents were always going to be



defeated or at least he hoped they would. Our youth today will need to have an understanding of how to face their challenges by evaluating their situation and making a decision on what would provide the greatest outcome. Often times its how you face your decisions that can assist you in making the right decision.

Texas KOP Family
Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council

Honorable Wilbert M Curtis
Grand Master of Texas Prince Hall Masons

Charles DeWitt
Grand Youth Director

Willie "High" Coleman, RWGSW
Chairman, Prince Hall Charitable Trust Fund

Gilbert "Gil" Tyler, PGM
Supreme Master Knight (Virginia)

Michael L. Simms, Sr.
State Director

Rahsaan Cook
Assistant State Director

Clary Glover, Jr.
State Recorder
Deputy Assistant State Director

Robert Datcher
State Treasurer
(RW Grand Lodge Treasurer)

Michael Levingston
State Educational Officer

Victor Edwards
State Educational Officer

Ronald Gerac
State Educational Officer

Phelix Houston
Deputy Assistant State Director
North Texas

Herb Loring
Deputy Assistant State Director
Central Texas

Jack Turner
Deputy Assistant State Director
East Texas

Fred Walker
Deputy Assistant State Director
Gulf Coast

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Grand Senior Knight
Grand Junior Knight
Grand Recorder
Grand Treasurer
Grand Senior Knight Deacon
Grand Junior Knight Deacon
Grand Senior Knight Steward
Grand Junior Knight Steward
Grand Knight Chaplain
Grand Knight Marshall
Grand Knight Standard Bearer
Grand Knight Orator
Grand Knight Sentinel

YOUTH LEADERSHIP—What does it mean?

By M.V. Grand Master Knight Aashan Bayyan



Stepping into the new year our focus here at Texas KOP has been facing our challenges head on. We try to build a strong relationship between our young men and the adult mentors so as to make them comfortable discussing their personal, economic and spiritual challenges; then finding a way to face the problems and overcome them. That is my main objective as Grand Master Knight of Texas KOP, to help fresh minded young men to build

confidence and lifelong friendships. In a society as material based entertainment driven young people men and women alike can lose themselves in the day to day process of living life and become prisoner to their fears. My hope is to help build young men's into stronger more confident leaders in the world community. It is a dream like many before me. Yet it is recurring because the goal is pure and the outcome can be poten-



tially astounding. Texas KOP has the potential, all that we need is to fuel the motor behind the dream and we will continue to produce great leaders and revolutionaries as those that preceded us.

My hope is to help build young men's into stronger more confident leaders in the world community



Texas KOP Mission Statement

The Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council Order of the Knights of Pythagoras is a Youth Organization sponsored by Prince Hall Masons of Texas

Our organization takes young boys between the ages of nine through twenty and train them in the areas of Leadership, Responsibility, and Brotherhood

Providing a partnership between master masons, our youth, parents, and the community. Our program promotes family values, community service, and continuously provide training for our youth as they Become the future leaders of today as well as Tomorrow.

Letter from DASD Fred Walker To the Gulf Coast & Texas KOP family



Fred Walker
Deputy Assistant
State Director
(Gulf Coast)

I pray that all is well over the City of Houston, Texas. Our Father that is in heaven has blessed each one of you and your family.

I speak from my heart, that when I say Houston is a great City to live in and it has been a pleasure to serve as Deputy Assistant State Director. During my time of leadership for Houston and Stafford Texas KOP I learned a lot from you all and from the young men that I have come in contact with. As Deputy my goals is simple, I would like you all help me to continue the work that was set forth by great men and women that came before us. Knights of Pythagoras was just a image in the mind of our late Grand Master Robert E. Connor, Jr. and spire headed by late Grand High Priest of Texas Arthur L. Banks. Which brothers of District 15 A named there Council after. In Houston we are the fourth Largest City in the Nation. I say this because as a resident of this and surrounding cities there is a great need for people like us to continue work with our youths to make sure we do not leave no one behind. It give me pleasure to see our youth no matter what race they maybe succeed in life and become great leaders them selves. In Houston, Texas we started by surrounding our youth with positive role models. Giving the youth things to do, like reading the news papers, sporting events, essay, speech classes, leadership classes, and family values. They are only just a few things that we do in Houston, Texas.



The same goes for Woody Robinson Council in Stafford, Texas. Woody Robinson was one of the first settlers in Stafford and a member of Attentive Ear # 350. His wisdom gave me a great idea about youth in Stafford, Texas. His number one saying, Fred give the kids hope and a chance to do well and watch how the community changes. Woody Robinson became one of Texas Honorary Past Grand Master at the age 104 by Most Worshipful Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis. Later pass away at 106 years old. KOP in Houston and Stafford, Texas is growing because we care about the youths all over the world. Let our example here in this great City continues to influence the youths. But most of all thanks go to the parents who allow us in their lives. Now that the Youth Leadership Conference is coming to Texas Southern University in July 30, 2010 thru August 1, 2010 I am looking forward to Houston stepping up to the plate with helping the Coastal Regional Councils put on another great Conference.

*I speak from my heart,
that when I say Houston
is a great City to live in
and it have been a
pleasure to serve as
Deputy Assistant State
Director.*

Special thanks to Most Worshipful Grand Master Wilbert Curtis, State of Texas, State Director Michael Simms, Assistant State Director Rahsaan Cook, District Deputy Grand Master Ronald Gerac, Worshipful Master Herman Waddy, Senior Advisor Larry Jones, Senior Advisor Dorian Carter, Assistant Advisor Michael Tatum, and Long Star Grand Commandery In Hoc.



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The Knighting Ceremony for Mentorship
By
Rahsaan Cook
Assistant State Director



This ceremony was created to celebrate our Senior Youth Knight's accomplishments while traveling through the stages of Paige, Squire, and Knighthood. The ceremony revisits the lessons learned as a Knight of the Order of the Knights of Pythagoras Youth Fraternity. The passage from Knighthood to Mentorship is one that expresses how the Knight is now a valuable tool to the growth of the Order. He learns more of the meaning of working as a unit and strengthening his friendship bonds with his peers and those who he now stands as a Mentor to. He learns that, even though he has reached the pinnacle of the Order, he can't forget about those who will soon be traveling the same route; facing the same obstacles in Life.

This ceremony was created to celebrate our Senior Youth Knight's accomplishments while traveling through the stages of Paige, Squire, and Knighthood

At each Youth Leadership Conference, the State Director will give the call that all Junior and Senior (Knight Level) members will meet for the execution of this ceremony. This will be a memorable night for all participants.

Last year, while at Wiley College, the 1st Class of Knight Mentors were made. Their Class was named after our State Director, Michael Simms, Sr Class of 2009. This Class was very unique since it was made up of KOP members from both Arkansas and Texas.



Next years ceremony will take place on the campus of Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas.

I am proud of the newly made Mentors and look forward to them moving this program well into the future.

Long live the Order of the Knights of Pythagoras!

Long live Prince Hall Freemasonry!





Preparing for College Life

By Past M.V. Grand Master Knight Joedicy Simms

Transitioning from high school to college is probably one of the most stressful periods in a student's life as a senior. However, simply being prepared to make that transition really isn't that bad. It's not the fact that the preparation is hard, it's the fact that it takes a lot of time and patience. For me, preparing for college has drawn up a plethora of applications to colleges, running back and forth to my high school counselor for transcripts, SATS, grade point averages, filling out millions of scholarships, as well as trying to make it through senior year. But in the long run, being able to take advantage of the resources your high school offers you is for the most part, the greatest advantage you can have in terms of preparing for college.

On the other hand, if you have someone in your network that is an employee of a College or University, that helps as well and serves as a personal guide for you in some cases. The main thing is that you need to stay focused your senior year. Make time for your high school things, then make time for college stuff. As well as staying focused your last year in high school, you always have your options open. You might even have to resort to a "Plan D" if necessary. Preparing for college isn't really a difficult task at all. You simply need to follow these four elements. : Be patient. Take advantage of the resources available. Stay focused and have a goal.

All Youth Knights & Sir Knights please make plans to attend....

Texas KOP Program

MOST VENERABLE THOMAS H. ROUTT GRAND COUNCIL

will make its 1st appearance
at the

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Session

On

Saturday, June 26th, 2010

Order of the Knights of Pythagoras
Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council

Sponsored by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and Jurisdiction, F & AM

"Celebrating over 10 years of service to the youth of Texas"

Getting ready for the
2010 Youth Leadership Conference



at
Texas Southern University
Houston, Texas
July 30 - Aug 1, 2010



Also

There is a battle taking place... ..

At the 2010 Youth Leadership Conference

Texas
KOP
Arkansas
KOP **VS** **Oklahoma**
KOP

For the title of

"The Great Debaters"

2010 Debate Competition

Training our Youth in

Leadership, Responsibility, and Brotherhood.

Donations accepted. Please visit our web site:

www.Texaskop.net