

PHOENIX LODGE #112

**Most Worshipful Price Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio
Free & Accepted Masons**

MWPHGL of Ohio PHA
Phoenix Lodge #112
1295 Curtis Street
Akron, Ohio 44301



Phoenix Lodge #112
Johnnie T. Buckley Jr.
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ALLOCUTION DECEMBER 3, 2020



**Johnnie T. Buckley Jr.
2020 Worshipful Master**

To the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Elected Officers and Appointed Officers, Grand Lodge Officers Elected and Appointed, Past Masters and Brethren.

Greetings,

I would like to thank Almighty God, the Grand Architect of the Universe for the blessings that he has bestowed upon me in leadership and the Brothers of Phoenix Lodge #112.

Brother Chaplin let us first give honor and thanks to God, for giving me strength and all the blessings that have been bestowed upon me and Phoenix Lodge #112.

When I was elected and accepted the office of Worshipful Master of Phoenix Lodge #112, I set goals for increasing communication and brotherly love within the Lodge, for the Chapters, and the Masonic Prince Hall Family. As well as moving Phoenix Lodge to the forefront as we traveled throughout the state of Ohio.

“We do not get better by chance, We get better by change” is the motto used for the 2020 year. There needs to be changes, to improve and keep Phoenix Lodge moving forward.

NECROLOGY

The dreaded massager of death took from our ranks

Bro. Ivory S. White

Bro. Charles Hale Jr

Bro. George D. Bowens

Bro, Eugene Hammonds

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU, Phoenix Lodge Past Masters and Akron Past Master Council for the advice and wisdom that was given and whispered in my ear to help make me a better leader as Worshipful Master of Phoenix Lodge #112.

I enjoyed working countless hours with SW Mike Sales, JW Sam McCants, Secretary Damien Hill and Treasure Mack M, Stephens. This is what being a brother mason is all about, THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to all Line Officers SD Greg Smith, JD Waymon Brown, SS LarVell Fellows, JS Johnathan Williams, Marshall Walter Clayton, Chaplin PM Pail Miller, Tyler PM Regi Price and Brothers that supported me this year, lending a helping hand where needed.

THANK YOU, to Mt. Calvary Lodge #76, Phoenix Chapter #96 and other Prince Hall Masonic Houses for your help with other activities and fund-raisers that you all helped and supported throughout the 2020 year.

The 2020 Committees Chairman that were able to start and run their programs in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic THANK YOU for all you do.

LODGE REPRESENTATION

Mt. Calvary Lodge #76 and Phoenix Lodge #112 Widow's Luncheon, December 7th 2019.

Samos Chapter of Pythagorans and Unity #52 Girl Assembly Black History Program held at Akron Public Library Main Branch for 2020 Black History Month.

Akron Past Master Council Dinner Dance held February 1st 2020 at Montrose Holiday Inn

Pythagoran Speech Academy in February 2020 at Akron Main Library.

In May 2020 Phoenix Lodge gave back to Akron's essential workers. Providing food to four African American Funeral Homes in the Akron area and the Summit County Medical Examiner's Office.

Prince Hall Americanism Day Virtual Celebration held September 13th on Zoom.

September 2020 Book Bag Program the Masonic Family gave five Akron schools 150 book bags filled with school supplies.

171st MWPHGL Annual Grand Communications held Virtual on Zoom August 29, 2020.

STATE OF THE LODGE

The first challenge I faced as the Worshipful Master of Phoenix Lodge was a budget for 2020. This budget showed lodge members funds received and projected expenditures. Two-thousand eight hundred dollars, (\$2800,00) was paid toward brothers per capita taxes in hope of recuperating a return, which the lodge did not recover.

As Worshipful Master I was to work and interact with heads of houses under the Prince Hall Family in the Akron area to bond and knock down barriers so Brothers and Sisters felt at home with someone they knew and trusted when attending various activities/functions. However, due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus shelter in place mandates and other social distancing protocols established by Governor Michael DeWine we were unable to have in-person meetings and other activities.

The Lodge will end the year 2020 with a good balance in its bank account. Some of this is due to suspensions, not spending funds on souvenir program booklets, ads, tickets. The Grand Lodge did wave the third quarter per capita taxes if your Lodge were up to date on 2020 Per capita taxes. The Craft received approximately \$1,700 in personal out of pocket donations, which went toward the expenses of the lodge website, the essential workers meals, the book bag program, stamps for letter communication, the annual widows' gifts, and the mobile chair donation for Sister Elizabeth Collier who turned 101 years of age earlier this year.

Communication did improve with the help of three communication letters going out to the Craft this year. The outcome averaged just over 20 brothers per call for teleconference calls. We had four out of state Brothers on a few of the calls all at once. Virtual communication has enabled us to stay connected, to handle the business of the Lodge to the best of our ability. Dues did come in earlier than usual helping us to pay rent and other expenditures on time all year.

The Lodge will celebrate 75 years in 2021, but we would like your help In planning this celebration. With the COVID-19 Coronavirus still among us this has become problematic to plan and get things stated.

It was a challenge due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, but we got the job done with 600 tickets sale for the Grand Lodge Scholarship Raffle Fundraiser. Thank You Phoenix Lodge on a job well done!!!

Phoenix Lodge did enjoyed some level of success this year 2020, despite a worldwide pandemic.

This year has been educational and constructive even with the COVID-19 Coronavirus keeping us shut down for the last nine months. To the Line Officers, Past Masters, and Grand Lodge Officers Elected and Appointed, again I say THANK YOU for your advice, wise council and input.

Fraternally,

Johnnie T. Buckley Jr.

Johnnie T. Buckley Jr.
Worshipful Master
Phoenix Lodge #112