

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT  
(KNIGHTS OF PYTHAGORAS)  
R.W. WAYNE T. MCNEAL, SR.**

TO: Most Worshipful Kenneth B. Anthony, Grand Master of Masons

VIA: Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden, Patrick L. Hughes, Sr.

Greetings,

First, I give all praise and glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for blessing me with the strength and ability to perform the duties as State Youth Director for a second year. This is a report of my stewardship for the period of July 2008 to June 2009.

Working together with Grand Junior Warden, Patrick L. Hughes, Sr. the Youth Department specifically the Knights of Pythagoras has exceeded all expectations. After a slow start we gain momentum and were off to the races.

**STATE OF THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHAGORAS**

Sponsored by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall of the State of Washington and Jurisdiction the Knights of Pythagoras program strive to instill the values of **Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do!** With the Most Worshipful Grand Master Kenneth B. Anthony leading this year's charge Prince Hall Masons of Washington exemplify the motto "**No man stands so straight as when he stoops to help a boy**". Praise and thanks to the Sir Knights who's efforts have resulted in the program doubling in size. This kind of commitment is a testimony that we can continue to energize this youth organization to build the several councils that use to flourish throughout the jurisdiction.

**THE STATE BOARD OF REGENTS:**

The James B. Sloan **State Board of Regents** which includes members in each Masonic district has exemplified itself with the resurgent of two of our councils Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Council #3 in Germany and Pride of Olympia Council #9 in Lacey, Washington. The State Board of Regents has worked hard to ensure the continuing success of the Knights of Pythagoras. The faithful few members of the board stateside who showed up month after month to support our time honored and main youth organization, I thank you for your support because without you this program would not have had the success that our Knights have enjoyed this year. You have truly been the corner stone that has kept these councils operational.

You the members of the State Board of Regents can truly be proud of the sacrifices you made despite some of the adversity you were face with. You did not let it deter you from your commitment and dedication to the development of our future leaders. The State Board of Regents has provided assistance to our councils by holding highly successful membership drives throughout the entire jurisdiction and this year the State Board of Regents awarded sixteen (16) \$50.00 KOPEI savings bonds.

Although the State Board of Regents should be commended for their tremendous efforts, I don't feel that the Board has been given the authority and flexibility to perform the duties of it's conception. The Board does not enjoyed the responsibility of making a decision without in several instances being veto by the Grand Junior Warden

particularly the Grand Conclave. The Grand Conclave has always been hosted by the councils and subsidized by the State Board. This is a youth function and should not be used as a fund raiser. This jurisdiction is not so financially challenged that we can not afford to host this annual youth event and invite our other Masonic youth organizations and the public without having to charge a fee for lunch and registration. This is our primary showcase event where the public can see what this jurisdiction does for our youth and for the community at large we can not afford to miss the opportunity to promote our good works and successes of our Knights.

The Grand Conclave has always resulted in an increase in membership not just from the children of our Masonic family, but from the surrounding community who we are also trying to reach. The Board of Regents is in the process of reviewing and updating its' bylaws so that there will be a clear direction, guidelines, and also to know what is expected from the board. The members of the State Board of Regents have dedicated many years supporting the Knights of Pythagoras only to be overruled by a new Grand Junior Warden who want to make there mark which is not always in the best interest of the youth. The members of the State Board Regents serve because of their desire to see our youth succeed not because of their political aspirations. They provide stability, continuity, and wise council for every new Grand Junior Warden. The members of the State Board of Regents are there when the Grand Junior Warden has moved on.

### **THE COUNCILS:**

The James B. Sloan Grand Council working at the will and pleasure of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M., State of Washington and Jurisdiction, boast four active and accredited Knights of Pythagoras Councils that of **Martin Luther King Jr. Council #1** which serves **Tacoma, Washington**, **Ira Simon Council #2** which serves **Seattle, Washington**, **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Council #3** which serves **Germany**, and **Pride of Olympia Council #9** which serves **Olympia, Washington**.

#### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Council #1:**

Listed are some of the events and accomplishments for this council.

- Hosted 2008 Grand Conclave
- Ushered at the annual March of Unity and DuPont joint Church service
- Sung Christmas songs and handed out gifts to seniors at the University Place Care Center
- Held annual Council Christmas Party
- Ushered at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration at the Tacoma Dome
- Master Knight Dume' and Knight Robinson attended annual Heroines of Jericho Palm Sunday service

- Master Knight Wraggs attended Capital City Consistory #106 Ladies Night

Martin Luther King, Jr. Council #1 has become the temporary holding Council for many Knights and Sir Knights overseas until at such time these members are able to form their own council.

### **Ira Simon Council #2:**

Listed are some of the events and accomplishments for this council.

- Ushered at the annual March of Unity and DuPont joint Church service
- Ushered at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration at the Tacoma Dome
- Served lunch at the Prince Hall annual Leadership Conference
- Hosted 2009 Grand Conclave

Ira Simon Council #2 has several Sir Knights from overseas districts until at such time these members are able to form their own council.

### **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Council #3:**

Although small and recently re-chartered this council boast sixteen (16) Knights and Sir Knights. Master Knight Ramon A. Ortiz III, Senior Knight Tito Resendez, Jr., Junior Knight Lemont Williams, Jr., and Chaplain Luis A. Ortiz are doing an outstanding job traveling throughout the area to get the word out that the Knight of Pythagoras is alive, well, and on the move in Germany. This accomplishment could not have been done without the leadership of Past District Deputy Youth Director Carl Foggey and Current District Deputy Youth Director Ramon A. Ortiz, Jr.

### **Pride of Olympia Council #9:**

Officially re-chartered June 18, 2009; however, Master Knight Kristian Dume' has set the ground work by already getting involved and representing his council at Masonic and community events.

The District Deputy Youth Directors for 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 are working with the Lodges in their respective districts to establish solid youth programs within the communities of their districts.

### **District Number Twelve:**

Under the leadership of District Deputy Youth Director William "CJ" Johnson the Knights and the Sir Knights in the Philippines are well on there way to establishing a Knights of Pythagoras Council there. DDYD Johnson is currently conducting a membership drive to recruit more Knights and Sir Knights. He has traveled with Knights Adrian R. Arandia

and Andre A. Goodloe to ANZAC Day Australian Memorial Service and to Manila to the American Veterans Cemetery and Memorial where they met and took pictures with the American Ambassador to the Philippines Mr. Kristie A. Kenney. Keep up the outstanding work DDYD Johnson you are about to see and will enjoy the fruits of your labor. Well Done!!!

### **CONCLUSION**

I commend our Knights of Pythagoras Knights and Sir Knights for your achievements throughout the year. This year has truly been an all hands effort to make our youth program second to none! All of you should stand proud knowing that you have raised and continue to raise the bar of our organization to higher standards than ever before.

I would like to thank the Prince Hall Masonic PHAmily for supporting me in my endeavor as State Youth Director. Lastly, to the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Kenneth B. Anthony thank you for my appointment as State Youth Director. Sadly, because of my failing health and pending surgery if I am considered for re-appointment to the position of State Youth Director or any appointment to a position on the Grand Lodge Staff I must respectfully decline.

Brothers we are gaining momentum so let us continue our due diligence with our youth. Brothers we still need more mentors in the homes, in the churches, in the community centers, and in the schools.

Fraternally submitted,

**R.W. Wayne T. McNeal, Sr.**  
State Youth Director

Attachment: Youth Income and Expense Report