

## **Union Lodge #155: *The Industrious Bee-Hive***

Spring 2009 Journal Submission

By W. Bro. Adrian V. Cooley

During the first half of 2009, the members of Union Lodge #155 have been busy working as industriously as a beehive. The Brothers have continued to make a charity a focal point of its efforts. We have also used these moments as opportunities to become closer as a lodge. The Brothers fellowship while meeting at a Brother's house to put together Easter Baskets in March or while walking together for the American Cancer society Walk & Roll in May. Union also include their children in their efforts whenever possible. In April, The children of members were excited to help delivered Easter Baskets to nursing home residents. Union is unique in the fact the most of its charter members were initiated in a downstate lodge but now have a lodge home in Chicago. In June, a Reunion Weekend was developed to continue the bond between Union and its downstate "mother" lodge, Elijah S. Betts #23.

Here are some highlights of the first half of 2009:

### **EMMETT TILL ACADEMY BLACK HISTORY ASSEMBLY**

On February 27, 2009 , Bro. Chris Calhoun represented Union Lodge at its adopted school Emmett Till Academy. He also gave a brief historical presentation on the man Prince Hall, the founder of "African-American Freemasonry" in the United States of America. The presentation also touched on Prince Hall's place in Black history month as the founder of the first public school for African-American children in America. Bro. Calhoun, presented a student with two tickets to a March 22nd Chicago Bulls game to recognize his academic success. Bro. Adrian Cooley, W.M. also attended the game with his two nephews. The members of Union Lodge expect to be role models to the students as a group of positive African-American men working in the community.

### **NURSING HOME PRE-EASTER VISIT**

April 11, 2009 the members of Union Lodge #155 visited the Washington Heights Nursing Home and gave out fruit and candy baskets to the residents. Some members brought their children to teach them about the importance about of giving back. Over 140 baskets were delivered.





### **AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S "WALK AND ROLL"**

On May 17, 2009, over twenty lodges and chapters from the Illinois Prince Hall Masonic Family participated in the charity event to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. Present were Bro. Adrian Cooley W.M., Bro. Chris "Juice" Calhoun S.W., Fellowcraft Brad Bozeman and Fellowcraft Wes Hampton. The Brothers and Sisters either did the 5K walk, 10K skate, or 15K bicycle ride. Bro. Calhoun, Bozeman, and Hampton did the 5K walk, while W.M. Cooley did the 15K bicycle ride with his wife with their two children riding with them.

### **REAL MEN READ**

On May 20, 2009 the Brothers of Union Lodge #155 participated in Emmett Till Academy's annual "Real Men Read" program. Union adopted the school in 2008. Till Academy started the Real Men Read program in 1996. Each participant was assigned a class room to read a book to its students. Bro. Adrian Cooley W.M., read a book to third graders about a young Michael Jordan growing up titled "Salt In His Shoes" by Jordan's mother, Delores Jordan. Bro. Abdulrahim Ali, J.W. read a selection to Fourth Graders. Bro. Art Ciegotura, S.S., read a book to the seventh graders. Our adopt-a-school coordinator, Bro. Chris Calhoun was the Brother who arranged for the Brothers to be a present at the program.

Union donated the book "Black Square & Compass: 200 Years of Prince Hall Freemasonry" by Joseph A. Walkes to the school library. The lodge donated the book to the school library to make sure that that its adopted school had a book on Prince Hall Freemasonry and the man Prince Hall. It is a part of an effort by Union to promote the good works of Prince Hall Freemasonry to the public.



Bro. Adrian Cooley, W.M. of Union Lodge #155, F&AM, PHA presents Principal Mary Rodgers and Librarian Mrs. Jacobsen the book "Black Square & Compass: 200 Years of Prince Hall Freemasonry" by Joseph A. Walkes

## **REUNION WEEKEND 2009**

June 6-7, 2009, several Brothers and Sisters traveled from the North Shore, Downstate, and even from Florida. There was representation from other at least 16 lodges and 7 OES chapters that either came to the Friday Golf Outing, the Friday Night Party With "The U", or our specially convened lodge meeting on that Saturday morning. The purpose of the weekend was to invite our "mother" lodge Elijah S. Betts #23 and all of Union supporters from Chicago and downstate for fellowship and to bring new members into the fold.

That Friday afternoon, several Brothers and OES Sisters teed off at the Odyssey Golf Course in Tinley Park, IL. That Friday night at the Checkerboard in Hyde Park, the party was awesome with the live band "Innosphere" who played a tremendous set. That Saturday morning, our degree team did a joint Third Degree with the Elijah S. Betts #23 degree team. There were five men raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason: One from Union #155, two from Elijah S. Betts #23, and two from Rufus Mitchell #107.



Brothers at the Friday Golf Outing



Union Lodge #155 and visiting Brothers at the Friday Night Party With The "U"



Brothers of Union #155, Elijah S. Betts #23, Rufus Mitchell #107 and other visiting Brothers after the Third Degree,  
Saturday, June 7, 2009