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## Prince Hall Shriners and Daughters of Isis meet in San Antonio for Annual Desert Conference: Award Scholarships, assist East Side Boys and Girls Club

*Story and photos by:  
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Desert of the Far East*

**SAN ANTONIO** — “All Roads Lead to the Alamo City” was the theme for the 2010 Desert of Texas’ Conference of Gala Days, Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine of North and South America and Its Jurisdictions, Inc., Prince Hall Affiliation. The event was held at the El Tropicano Hotel on the historic San Antonio River Walk, April 29 – May 2.

Nobles from 12 temples and Daughters of Isis from 11 courts traveled from throughout the Lone Star State for their annual conference which rotates annually among the other cities in Texas with Shrine Temples.

On Thursday, Nobles and Daughters arrived at the hotel and their hosts, Moussa Temple No. 106 and Moussa Court No. 119 began to officially open their respective temple/court and properly received their Deputies of the Desert and for the Deputies to receive the Imperial Potentate, Noble Oliver Washington, Jr., of the Imperial Council and Imperial Commandress, Daughter Charlesena Smith of the Imperial Court.

Numerous topics were briefed and discussed during the Desert



*Imperial Commandress Charlesena Smith of the Imperial Court talks to the Nobility and Daughters of Isis of Texas during a joint session at the 2010 Desert of Texas’ Gala Days held at the El Tropicano Hotel in Downtown San Antonio, April 30.*

Conference to include membership, public information programs, Diabetes Initiative, scholarship programs, and other important information.

In the session, Imperial Deputy of the Desert, Noble Timothy Boone asked all of the Illustrious Potentates what their temples are known for in their communities and stressed that as a Desert we should all be known for the same principles, programs and ideals.

In addition to other business, I.D.O.D. Boone stressed the need

for training at the Imperial Council Session in order for the temples to have the tools they need to be successful.

During the conference, a new instrument was introduced to the Nobles, a Free Tele-Conference Service.

“This tool will be used to bring us more together,” said I.D.O.D. Boone. “To be successful we have to tap into the latest technologies to move forward as a Desert.”

Another briefing presented was



*Imperial Deputy of the Desert Timothy Boone, flanked by Imperial Potentate Oliver Washington, Jr. (rt.), and Illustrious Potentate James Pearson (lt.) of Moussa Temple No. 106, provides information to the Nobility regarding the Shriners as Mentors Program. I.D.O.D. Boone wished for each temple in Texas to start up their program and place their fingerprints back on the community.*

information regarding Shriners as Mentors or SAMS Program.

According to I.D.O.D. Boone, the Desert of Texas will be honing in on youth in the 5th – 8th grades.

“I expect each temple to start up their SAMS Program. We need commitment, not just from the Ill. Potentates but from each Noble as well.”

Imp. Potentate Washington talked about successful mentoring programs such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters and the need for African-American males in SAMS.

“A method to get your foot in the door is through tutoring and that can lead into mentoring,” said Imp. Potentate Washington. “A bit of time can make a huge difference in a young man and woman’s life.”

I.D.O.D. Boone echoed the Imperial’s comments by saying that the reward is when you know that you had something to do with the molding of a child.

Later that evening, the Desert hosted a public program which consisted of the awarding of two \$1,000 scholarships and much

needed donations to the East Side Boys and Girls Club of San Antonio.

The event, which shares the expanding principles of Shrinedom and Isidom with the general public, was graced by the appearance of the Mayor of San Antonio, the Honorable Mayor Julian Castro.

Mayor Castro, who provided opening comments, said the good work that Prince Hall Shriners and Daughters have done along with their efforts to lift up communities have garnered the gratitude from the entire city of San Antonio.



*Asst. Chief Earl Crayton, III, served as the Guest Speaker at the Public Program held during the 2010 Desert of Texas' Gala Days, April 30.*

The event also was blessed by the presentation of dance which was provided by the Shades of Praise and Exalted, a youth dance troop from West End Baptist Church.



The Guest of Honor for the event was Assistant Chief Earl Crayton, III of the San Antonio Fire Department, Fire Prevention Division, whose theme was education and communication.

"Events such as this provide an opportunity to educate," said Asst. Chief Crayton.

Fire departments are known for their reactivity, but we are working on our proactivity. Our motto is 'Our family protecting

your family'." "We are using your children to communicate fire safety. They are easier to talk to because most adults are stuck in their ways."

Asst. Chief Crayton said that one of the ways to help the fire department is to communicate.

"You have to embrace fire safety. Remind your family members, call up those friends, aunts, cousins, etc., and at the end of the conversation ask them to check their smoke alarms. Talk to your neighbors if you see a fire hazard. They'll mostly say that they have done it that way for years. Most people who have had fires hadn't had a fire before either."

The two scholarship winners were in attendance with their families.

The first winner was Myjorca Johnson of Health Careers High School, who will be attending Hawaii Pacific University to major in Pre-Medicine.

The second winner was Raven Mosley of East Central High School, who will be majoring in Pre-Dental at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Johnson and Mosley were not the only big winners of the night. The staff and children of the East Side Boys and Girls Club came up big as well.



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The Daughters of Isis of Texas donated an industrial stove and a local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post donated a new refrigerator.

Not only were the Boys and Girls Club going to receive much needed equipment, they also received a \$500 donation from the Nobles of the Desert of Texas. To match that amount Moussa Temple No. 106 donated an additional \$500 and \$300 more was donated by Asst. Chief Crayton.



“Many of the kids come over after school and for many the food and snacks we serve are the last meal of the day,” said Anthony Ray, Director of the East Side Boys and Girls Club. “Thank you, thank you, thank you!”

A special presentation was awarded to Past Potentate William “Old Barracuda” Craig for his dedicated years of service as the Imperial Advisor to the Daughter of Isis.

“I done my best and now take my rest,” said P.P. Craig. “You’ll find me in one of two places, the Amen Corner or in the Upper Room.”

On Friday, a memorial service, a joint session, and Imperial Town Hall Meeting were held.

During the joint session, both the Imperial Deputies of the Desert for the Nobility and Daughters of Isis addressed their membership.

“My motto is if I can help someone along the way, then my living will not be in vain,” said Imperial Deputy of the Desert, Dt. Anna Harris-Howell. “My goals as long as I am Deputy will be to do charity in the Desert of Texas and to support the Imperial Court in their endeavors. And compared to the beginning, when I first started as



*Imperial Deputy of the Desert Anna Harris-Howell, along with the Imperial Commandress Charlesena Smith, present a photo of the industrial stove that was donated by the Daughters of Isis of Texas.*

the Deputy of the Desert, we've made great strides, but we still have work to do."

I.D.O.D. Harris-Howell provided those in attendance with information of the state of the organization and provided accolades bestowed upon the Daughters of Texas.

"During the Imperial Session in Atlanta, the Desert received awards for Outstanding Desert Donation to Development Delay Project, Outstanding Contribution to Tools for Schools Department, 1st Place in the Deputies Contest, Imperial Deputy for the Desert of the Year and a few of the courts received recognition for donations and accomplishments that they had made. We did great!"

"I would like to thank the Imperial Commandress for having faith in me and for reappointing me to this position."

She also thanked I.D.O.D. Boone for all his partnered support and for being a great sounding board.

"I look forward to continuing to work in peace and harmony with the Nobles and Daughters of Texas," concluded I.D.O.D. Harris-Howell.

After a round of applause, I.D.O.D. Boone gave his address.

Before delivering it, he asked for continued prayer for our president, our economy and for our brothers and sisters who are serving in the armed forces here and in harm's way.

He began with a glimpse of past memories.

"Over the last year I've spent time talking to Nobles about the past and our rich history; they speak of corporate sponsorships with Chrysler, Budweiser, and Kraft. I've watched clips of Shrine parades that left me in awe. I saw



*Imperial Potentate Oliver Washington, Jr., chaired a Town Hall Meeting during the Desert of Texas' Gala Days.*

pictures of a church visitation that had 70 Nobles in it and I asked myself where have those days gone, how do we get them back."

I.D.O.D. Boone said that we must recommit ourselves to the organization, recommit ourselves to each other and most importantly, recommit ourselves to the community.

"If we are going to gain our place back in the community, we must put our fingerprints back where they belong, on the community. As a Desert, we must re-focus our efforts on three initiatives (Diabetes Initiative, SAMS, and Scholarships), along with the programs currently in place, and then we can reclaim our position as one of the strongest organizations in the world."

According to I.D.O.D. Boone, officers and members must be trained in order to be successful. Holding those accountable for their roles as leaders and stopping substandard performance is key.

"Success does not come easy, you have to work and plan for it. Lets stop talking about what we can't do, let's follow the plan and work as a team to change the communities that need us the most," ended I.D.O.D. Boone.

After the addresses, Imp. Potentate Washington began a Town Hall meeting with the Nobles and Daughters.

He said that the Town Hall was for listening and he wanted to hear what those have to say. One of the topics he said consistently is brought up in previous Town Halls was change.

"We have to change, we have to grow, we have to reach out, and we have to be able to look around the corner," said Imp. Potentate Washington.

"We have to change with the times; the world is not as it was 50 years ago. Back in 1926, black men could only be members of the Elks or Masons. Now today black men and women can join almost

any organization they please, so it is very competitive now.”

Imp. Potentate Washington said that no one wants to part of nothing and A.E.A.O.N.M.S. has to position itself where it can be the premiere organization.

He also talked about upcoming Creation training that will be available at the Imperial Council Session this year and also provided information for the celebration of the Daughters of Isis’ 100 Year Anniversary.

After the Town Hall Meeting Desert Elections were held.

On Saturday, Nobles and Daughters conducted a visit to more than 100 occupants at a local nursing home, providing clothing and nursing care products; an

additional donation of \$400 was provided by the Daughters of the

Desert for recreational activities. Visits were also conducted at the East Side Boys and Girls Club. Teams of Nobles/Daughters participated in the Gala Days Bowling Tournament held at Fort Sam Houston and many drifted through Downtown on the San Antonio River.

The last official event was the Imperial Deputies Ball.

Dress in summer dress, Nobles and Daughters were presented with awards.

Nubia Temple No. 191/Court No. 190 was announced as champions of the Bowling Tourney with Moussa Temple No. 106/Court No. 119 coming in 2nd and Medji

Temple No. 45/Court No. 38 in 3rd Place.

The Traveling Trophy was award to Nubia Temple No. 191 and Temple of the Year went to Medji Temple No. 45.

The 117th Imperial Council Session and 99th Imperial Court Session will be held 13 – 19 in Tampa, Fl at the Tampa Convention Center.

According to Imp. Potentate Washington, the people of Tampa are looking forward to the Prince Hall Shriners’ arrival. Many are saying that A.E.A.O.N.M.S. saved many jobs with the annual Imperial Council and Court Sessions being held there.



*Nobles of Medji Temple No. 45 pose with Imperial Potentate Oliver Washington, Jr., and Imperial Deputy of the Desert Timothy Boone after being announced as Desert Temple of the Year.*

*This article is a representation of my personal observations and opinions and does not imply endorsement by any Masonic, federal or private organization. For any comments, I can be contacted at [parmermasonictraveler@hotmail.com](mailto:parmermasonictraveler@hotmail.com).*