

## Prince Hall Shriners (AEAONMS) Team with American Diabetic Association Birth of the National Diabetes Initiative & Prince Hall Shriners Foundation

In the latter part of 2008, newly installed Imperial Potentate Oliver Washington and the Imperial Divan of the Prince Hall Shriners (AEAONMS) initiated talks with the American Diabetes Association (ADA) to contemplate a collaborative effort for a philanthropic partnership. As a result, Imperial Potentate Washington and the Imperial Divan commenced planning towards developing a new program to sustain such collaboration.

Imperial Potentate Washington began sifting through resumes of qualified Nobles throughout the Domain in order to facilitate the effective management of the planned partnership. The program required a new public health component that would streamline Shriners' philanthropic and public education efforts and also a mechanism that would allow the Shriners to facilitate its charitable giving arm – the birth of the Prince Hall Shriners Foundation.

In December of 2008, the new public health program dubbed, the "National Diabetes Initiative" was enacted. The program institutes a major programmatic effort for the AEAONMS. The National Diabetes Initiative is hailed as a hallmark undertaking, to streamline Shrine Temple's philanthropic efforts to rally around a single public health issue that is truly vital to the life of the Nobility, worldwide.

Noble Dr. Ken Collins (Khedive #16) was tapped to serve as Chairman of the National Diabetes Initiative. Noble Collins' background is in politics and public health. Noble Collins served as senior level Congressional legislative staff to Civil Rights pioneer Congressman John Lewis (D-GA), Congressman David McIntosh (R-IN) and House Republican Conference Chairman Congressman Mike Pence (R-IN). Noble Dr. Collins currently serves as a federal and state lobbyist handling issues from public health, defense, and agriculture to international affairs. His education spans undergraduate degrees in biology and political science and graduate degrees in public affairs and public health and a Ph.D. in Public Health. Dr. Collins brings a broad depth of knowledge to the National Diabetes Initiative.

Additionally, with the institution of the Prince Hall Shriners Foundation, Noble Lawrence 'Larry' Cole (Shaaban #103) was tapped to assist in the formation of the foundation. Noble Cole's background spans 35+ years in the financial services as an executive with positions with Beneficial Corporation, President and COO of 1st Tuskegee Bank, and Firm Administrator of a



law firm. He currently owns his own consulting firm, which specializes in financial and business services.

The Goal of the National Diabetes initiative is a threefold undertaking:

1. Brand the Prince Hall Shriners Foundation/A.E.A.O.N.M.S name nationally in the local, regional and print media, by increasing the notoriety of Prince Hall Shriner activities (to illustrate there are "Black Shriners");
2. Initiating a fundraising effort by promoting the Prince Hall Shriners Foundation as a national association with a \$100,000 fundraising goal for the year; and,
3. Create a new nationally recognized public health related activity that all Shrine Temples will participate in uniformly.

Shortly afterwards, Nobles Dr. Collins & Cole gave presentations to the Imperial Potentate and the Imperial Divan at their January Divan meeting and were given the final go ahead to move forward signing the collaborative agreement with the ADA.

On January 22, 2009, the AEAONMS made a commitment to work with the American Diabetes Association to conduct diabetes awareness, education and fundraising activities designed to reach its membership. The meeting was held at the American Diabetes Association National Headquarters with in Washington, DC.

The meeting was attend by Imperial Potentate Oliver Washington, National Diabetes Initiative Director Noble Ken Collins, Imperial Conventions Director Noble Frederick Bell #15, National Diabetes Initiative Advisor Noble Dr. Donald Ware, and Prince Hall Shriners Foundation Chairman Noble Larry Cole, Jr. The American Diabetes Association brass was in attendance with Chairman of the Board George Huntley, Chief Executive Officer Larry Hausner, and Executive Vice President Cathy Harvey.

The meeting allowed each organization to outline its expectations for the collaboration. Each organization was extremely pleased to move forward in the collaborative effort and signed the agreement, with the signatures of Imperial Potentate Washington, CEO Hausner and Chairman Thomas.

Imperial Potentate Washington said, "Diabetes is serious and is devastating individuals and families in our community." Chairman Thomas echoed his sentiments by stating, "This is the first of many milestones that we are making to educate people regarding this disease in the African American Community." "Creating a worthwhile mechanism to educate our temples and community on diabetes will safeguard not only our health but the future of our temples," said Dr. Collins.

The National Diabetes Initiative will be highlighted at this year's Imperial Session in Atlanta, GA. A luncheon and educational training will kick-off the initiative for each Desert in the Domain during the Imperial Session. The American Diabetes Association will also have informational booths in the exhibition hall, featuring a Come Taste Station highlighting new recipes for those living with Diabetes.

Stay tuned for more information regarding the National Diabetes Initiative coming down from your Deputy of the Desert. Strength & Furor