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**Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
F. & A. M. of Alabama**



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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION NUMBER 2

December 9, 2013

TO: Grand Lodge Officers, Grand Trustees, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and Brothers of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, Jurisdiction of Alabama

GREETINGS:

Thanks be to God, the Author and the Finisher of all mankind, for all the many blessings He has bestowed upon us. Since I have been elected as Grand Master of this great Jurisdiction I have been hard at work trying to standardize and implement policies to help better the Jurisdiction. Enclosed with this Official Communication are some documents and policies which I will refer to in this Communication.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the passing of Nelson Mandela on Thursday, December 5, 2013, at the age of 95. The world lost a giant of a man in the civil rights leader. His nonviolent fight against apartheid in South Africa was a model for us as men and as Masons to follow as we are the leaders in our respective communities. He sacrificed twenty seven years of his life in prison because he would not stop fighting for his people. Let us ask ourselves, what sacrifices will we make for our people and for this great organization? Madam C.J. Walker once said, "I want you to understand that your duty is to humanity. I want others to look at us and see that we care not just about ourselves but about

others.” Let us keep the family of the late Nelson Mandela and South Africa in our prayers.

OFFICIAL FORMS UPDATE

All forms, with the exception of the demit form, are now available for download on our website, www.mwphglofal.org. All of the forms are form fillable. A demit form is enclosed with this Communication. Demits are available through the Grand Lodge Office.

JURISDICTIONAL REGALIA GUIDE

The Jurisdictional Regalia Guide mentioned in Official Communication One has been completed and is enclosed with this Communication. It is also available on the website. This guide is to be strictly adhered to, without any exceptions..

MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

Beginning January 1, 2014, official membership certificates will be available through the Grand Lodge Office. As of January 1, 2014, our joining fee will be \$25.00 which will include the cost of the membership certificate. Any current member, reinstating member or restoring member who would like to receive a membership certificate may send a check or money order to the Grand Lodge Office requesting a certificate. These certificates are not to be duplicated. They have to be signed and sealed by the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

We have made a change to our membership cards. An addition has been made to the back of the card. On the back side of the card is a payment grid for the months January through December. This payment grid is to be filled out as a Brother pays his dues. It is to be signed by the Worshipful Master and by the Secretary.

ANTI-HAZING POLICY

I have implemented an Anti-Hazing Policy which is enclosed with this Communication. This policy is also available on our website. Every lodge is to be in full compliance with the Anti-Hazing Policy. No ceremonies or initiation

procedures should be used other than what is in our official ritual, *Lester's Look to the East*. Please familiarize yourselves with this policy thoroughly.

HEALING

Effective immediately, the healing of a clandestine or irregular made Mason **must** be approved by the Grand Master. You may seek approval by calling or by writing me at the Grand Lodge Office.

DISPENSATIONS FOR PARADES

Effective immediately any lodge that wishes to sponsor or to participate in a parade must fill out a request for dispensation, and approval must be granted by the Grand Master.

SOUVENIR JOURNAL

Our souvenir journal efforts for 2013 were a great success. I congratulate and thank all who participated. The souvenir journal information for 2014 is enclosed with this Communication and is also available on the website. Please pay strict attention to the deadline date. **All subordinate lodges are required to purchase or to sell a full page ad or two half page ads.**

ACCIDENTAL DEATH and DISMEMBERMENT INSURANCE

Every member of the Jurisdiction of Alabama is currently covered by a \$2,000.00 accidental death and dismemberment insurance policy. The policy is provided by American Income Life Insurance Company and covers all present members and those who join our organization in the future. This insurance is at **no cost** to the membership. If a Brother does reach his demise by accident, please submit a death certificate to the Grand Lodge. It will be forwarded to American Income Life along with a letter of good standing from the Grand Master. **Brothers please keep in mind this is a policy for accidental death and dismemberment only.** A separate communication concerning this policy will be sent to you in the near future.

SOCIAL MEDIA

It has come to my attention that many of our Brothers have been relying on social media sites for information concerning the Grand Lodge of Alabama. Much of the information shared on those sites is inaccurate, and many of the conversations are erroneous and, in some ways, disrespectful to the Grand Lodge. Social media sites are not sanctioned by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama, and opinions expressed on those websites do not represent those of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama or its members. Many of the social media sites have become harbors for suspended Brothers who hold themselves out as Master Masons in good standing. Brothers, be very cautious about your interactions on these social media sites. Make sure that you are not in violation of your obligations. Brothers, let us be good speculative Masons and not resort to becoming “internet Masons”. The best way to obtain accurate information concerning the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama is to attend your Grand Lodge Sessions, regional meetings, subordinate lodge meetings, and frequently check our official website for updates.

MISHANDLING of FUNDS

Since being elected Grand Master I have been made aware of instances where Brothers have paid monies to their local lodges in good faith that the monies would be properly recorded and then sent to the Grand Lodge. However, many times the monies do not make it to the Grand Lodge. Any Brother caught embezzling Grand Lodge money will be immediately suspended or expelled. We are not to cheat, wrong, or defraud our Brothers. Every lodge is required to display its current roll on the secretary’s table at every meeting. Every Brother has the right to look at the roll to make sure his money is being sent to the Grand Lodge Office in Birmingham, AL. Grand District Deputies, make certain when you visit a lodge that you check to make sure that a current lodge roll is displayed on the secretary’s table.

MASONIC HEALING

On Saturday, January 11, 2014, this jurisdiction will accomplish an awesome feat. For the first time since consolidation, this Grand Lodge will heal a lodge of Prince Hall Origin (PHO) National Compact Masons. This historic occasion will take place at Tuxedo Lodge #431, located at 300 58th Street, in Fairfield, Alabama 35064. The entire jurisdiction is invited to attend. To place a Prince Hall

Affiliated (PHA) brand on this particular lodge, I will name it in honor of a previous Grand Master of this Jurisdiction.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

During this holiday season, let us be thankful for the many blessings the Grand Architect of the Universe has bestowed upon us, and let us remember the less fortunate during this time and always. Let us all remember the true reason for this holiday season, the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior. I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year!

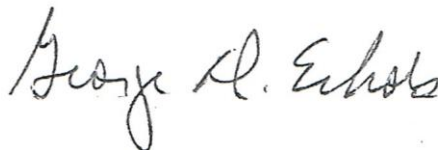
In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Grand Lodge to be affixed and the same to be attested by the Grand Secretary on this 9th day of December 2013, A. L. 6013.



**Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.
Most Worshipful Grand Master
of the
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama**



Attested:



**George D. Echols
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary
of the
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama**