



TO BE READ TWICE IN OPEN LODGE



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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION NUMBER 3

February 1, 2014

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:

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”

Galatians 5:1

The shortest month of the year, February, is designated as Black History Month. I am thankful that our people are recognized during this month, however our ancestors have made noteworthy contributions to this country, and to the world, that are worthy of being celebrated twelve months of the year. Let us not be satisfied with recognition in February only. Let us make sure we educate our people, especially our children and grandchildren, about our past.

During the first six months of my service as Grand Master of this great jurisdiction I have received countless words of encouragement and continued unwavering support. For this, I am sincerely appreciative. A leader is only as good as his followers and in order to be a good leader I must have a group of dedicated individuals following.

Since being elected and duly installed as Grand Master, I have been well received throughout the jurisdiction, as well as, throughout foreign jurisdictions. I have continued the legacy of those who have previously served in the office of Grand Master by representing this Grand Lodge admirably wherever I may go.

MISSION STATEMENT

At our Semi-Annual Trustees Meeting I presented the Trustees with a proposed mission statement for our Grand Lodge and it was unanimously approved. It is:

The mission of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama is to continue the legacy of making good men better through fraternal brotherhood, to aid and assist our widows, orphans, and distressed brothers, and to contribute to the community through service, scholarship, charity and training.

MASONIC HEALING

The healing of the Lodge of Prince Hall Origin (PHO) National Compact Masons was a huge success. Brothers from all over the jurisdiction met in Fairfield, Alabama, to assist in the healing and witness the historic occasion. I thank each of you for your participation. The Lodge was named William O. Jones Lodge No. U.D. in honor of Grand Master Emeritus, the Honorable Dr. William O. Jones.

Many other clandestine lodges have approached me about being healed. Therefore, it is possible that we may have more lodge healings in the future, if I deem them worthy.

SELMA MARCH

In an effort to get more involved in our communities, to remember our past, look to our future, and to re-establish a presence in the State of Alabama, I am calling on the entire jurisdiction to converge on Selma, Alabama, on Sunday, March 9, 2014, to participate in the re-enactment of the historical

walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. I am asking all Brothers to meet at 119 Washington Street, Selma, Alabama 36701, diagonally across from the Washington Street Marketplace, at 11:00 a.m. The bridge crossing re-enactment will begin at 2:30 p.m. A large crowd is expected, therefore I am asking all Brothers to arrive at the designated time. All Brothers are to participate in the March dressed in full masonic regalia. It is very important that we assemble in Selma, Alabama in mass numbers. Consider this March as a time to remember for the seasoned Brother and a history lesson for the younger Brother. I am counting on you to help make this a success.

MASONIC LICENSE PLATE

In a mission to revitalize our efforts to obtain a Masonic License Plate for this jurisdiction I have appointed a Masonic License Plate Committee. In the past we were required to have one thousand commitments. We recently submitted the paperwork that would only require us to have two hundred fifty commitments. As soon as I have full details on this, I will notify the Craft. **I am calling on all Grand Lodge Officers and Grand District Deputies to be prepared to commit to purchasing a minimum of one license plate. We must lead by example. I am also calling on all Worshipful Masters and members of the Craft to be prepared to commit to purchasing one license plate.** We should be proud to show the world that we are Prince Hall Masons. What better way to show our pride than to have a license plate on our vehicle(s)?

RECLAMATION DRIVE (TARP)

In an attempt to give suspended Brothers an opportunity to become active again during these tough economic times, I have devised a plan that I have named **TARP** – **Traveling Again Reclamation Program**. This program is designed to allow suspended members to reinstate for a more affordable fee.

Members suspended **before** June, 2002, can reinstate by paying the following:

\$20.00 reinstatement fee
\$10.00 taxes
\$25.00 registration
\$50.00 assessment—**Have two years to pay the remaining \$150.00**
\$105.00 TOTAL

Members suspended **after** June, 2002, can reinstate by paying the following:

\$20.00 reinstatement fee
\$10.00 taxes
\$25.00 registration
\$50.00 assessment—**Have two years to pay the remaining \$200.00**
\$105.00 TOTAL

The two years to pay the assessment will be closely monitored by me. Those who do not pay the assessment will be suspended again for non-payment. If a Brother had already made payments on his assessment to the Grand Lodge he will be credited for his payment(s). Reinstatement does not include endowment and burial. A Brother can only rejoin endowment and burial by restoring. If a Brother's lodge no longer exists he is to be referred to his Grand District Deputy to help in completing the paperwork to get him on another lodge's roll.

TARP serves a two-fold purpose: (1.) It gives suspended Brothers a more affordable means of reinstating and (2.) It gives dying lodges a final opportunity to salvage their existence by increasing their numbers before being forced to close or merge. Brothers, I challenge you to go out and reclaim our lost Brothers. **TARP begins now and will be in effect through July 31, 2014.**

SUBORDINATE LODGES' WEBSITES

Since being elected Grand Master I have paid close attention to some of our subordinate lodges' websites. While I have found some that are to be commended for having websites that are characteristic of what Prince Hall Freemasonry is about, there are however, others that are not characteristic of what Prince Hall Freemasonry is about. I have found pictures which are poor in taste, as well as, inappropriate literature on some websites. Grand District Deputies have been contacted and commissioned to have those lodges remove those items from their websites immediately. Brothers, all it takes is a little common sense. Before placing something on your website ask yourselves, "Is this something that my lodge would be proud of with the primary goal of freemasonry being to make good men better?" In the near future guidelines for subordinate lodge websites will be disseminated.

GRAND SECRETARY'S CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Effective immediately, the Grand Secretary no longer has a Tuskegee address. His new address is as follows:

**George D. Echols
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary
Post Office Box 3967
Auburn, Alabama 36831-3967**

Please make sure that all Grand Lodge taxes and correspondences intended for the Grand Secretary are sent to the above address.

DISTRICT CHANGE

After mutual agreement among the two Grand District Deputies and myself, Etowah and Cherokee Counties are hereby removed from District 17 and placed in District 13, effective immediately. The lodges in Etowah and Cherokee Counties will be contacted by Grand District Deputy Gregory Rice. I thank you Brothers in advance for your cooperation.

REGIONAL DISTRICT MEETINGS

The schedule for 2014 Regional District Meetings is as follows:

Saturday, March 1, 2014 – Region #4: District Numbers 7, 8, and 10—Grand District Deputies Morris Tooles, Jr. (#7), Benjamin Beasley (#8), and Dexter Madden (#10) at 9:00 a.m. at First Baptist Church, 347 North Ripley Street, Montgomery, Alabama.

Saturday, March 15, 2014 – Region #6: District Number 17—Grand District Deputy Andrew J. Fuller (#17) at 10:00 a.m. at Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association Tabernacle, 6378 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, Alabama.

Saturday, March 22, 2014 – Region #1: District Numbers 1, 3, and 4—Grand District Deputies Maurice Edwards (#1), George Gibbs (#3), and George Wilson (#4) at 9:30 a.m. at the Masonic Temple, 558 St. Francis Street, Mobile, Alabama.

Saturday, March 29, 2014 – Region #5: District Numbers 13, 14 and 15—Grand District Deputies Gregory Rice (#13), A. Derek Bowman (#14), and Kenneth E. Hardy (#15) at 9:30 a.m. at Mount Moriah Baptist Church, 316 Avenue U, Birmingham (Pratt City), Alabama.

Saturday, April 19, 2014 – Region #2: District Numbers 2 and 12—Grand District Deputies John Mayfield (#2) and Richard Wilson (#12) at 10:00 a.m. at Eastern Star Baptist Church, 110 Curve Road, York, Alabama.

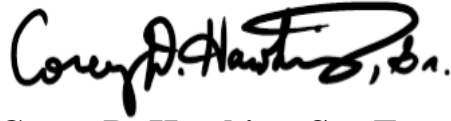
Saturday, April 26, 2014 – Region #3: District Numbers 5 and 6—Grand District Deputies Jimmy Farmer (#5) and Billy Morris (#6) at 9:00 a.m. at St. Luke AME Church, 757 Highway 130, Louisville, Alabama.

Worshipful Masters, Wardens and Brothers are expected to attend their Regional District Meetings.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- 1.) The healing of a clandestine or irregular made Mason **must** be approved by the Grand Master. You may seek approval by calling or writing me at the Grand Lodge Office.
- 2.) The souvenir journal information for 2014 has been disseminated and is also available on the website. Please pay strict attention to the deadline date. **All subordinate Lodges are required to purchase or sell a full page ad or two half page ads. All Grand Lodge Officers and Grand District Deputies are required to purchase a full page ad.** Let us make this year's souvenir journal the best ever.
- 3.) **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.** Grand District Deputies, make certain that when you visit a Lodge that you check to make sure that a current lodge roll is displayed on the Secretary's table.
- 4.) As of January 1, 2014, our joining fee increased to \$25.00 and now includes a membership certificate.

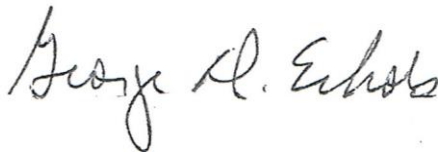
In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Grand Lodge to be affixed and the same to be attested by the Grand Secretary on this 1st day of February 2014, A. L. 6014.



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