

AN OFFICIAL  
PUBLICATION OF  
THE M.W.P.H.G.L.  
OF ALABAMA

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# THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE

VOLUME VII, ISSUE I



APRIL 2014

## The Grand Master's Trestle Board



*"And now abideth faith, hope, charity; these three, but the greatest of these is charity."*

**1 Corinthians 13:13**

Just recently, I made two at sight and we reinstated four. Senator Bobby Singleton and State Representative Roderick Scott were made at sight. State Representatives A.J. McCampbell, David Colston, Dexter Grimsley and Napoleon Bracy, Jr. all reinstated. I congratulate those Brothers for taking such an awesome step.

We are experiencing a growth spurt thanks to our **Traveling Again Reclamation Program (TARP)**. I encourage all lodges to reach out to your "out of bounds" brothers by telephone, letter, email, text message and/or door to door and inform them that there is a more cost effective way to reinstate. **TARP** continues until July 31, 2014.

I am excited about the future of Prince Hall Freemasonry in Alabama. We have a rich heritage and very high expectations. Together, my Brothers, with the help, aid and assistance of the Most High God, we can take this Grand Lodge to an apex never before seen. *"For with God nothing shall be impossible."* **Luke 1:37.**

I thank all of you for your prayers, your support, and your words of encouragement. Let us continue to build upon our solid foundation. With your help the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama will continue to grow and prosper. I challenge each of you to roll up your sleeves and go to work. Are you up to the challenge? May God bless you and may God bless this Grand Lodge!

I am honored and blessed to serve this great Grand Lodge in the capacity of Grand Master. The responsibilities of this office are numerous, yet because I am covered by the Blood of the Lamb, I am up to the test.

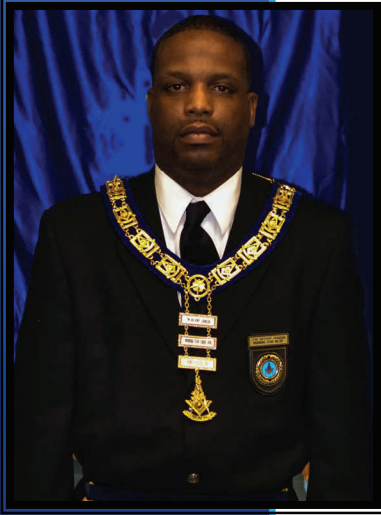
Since being elected Grand Master of this beloved Grand Lodge I have actively sought ways to bring more visibility to this great organization. We want the world to know that Prince Hall Freemasonry is alive and well in the Jurisdiction of Alabama.

I called on the Craft to accompany me in the Selma Bloody Sunday Reenactment. My Brothers, you answered the call by attending in massive numbers. We had approximately five hundred brothers present at the bridge crossing. This was truly a historical moment for us. It is my hope that next year we will have twice as many Brothers present.

We have been fortunate to welcome into our fold members of the State Legislature.

Fraternally,  
*Honorable Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.*  
Most Worshipful Grand Master

# Message from the Editor



PM Anthony Johnson  
Publication Editor

"This program is designed to allow suspended members to reinstate for a more affordable fee."

## Greetings,

To all the readers and supporters of this Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama titled *The Cornerstone Message*. As this jurisdiction has transitioned to the followership of a new administration bringing forth some changes within this great state, this newsletter will be aligned with that premise. Starting this year *The Cornerstone Message* will be published quarter-

ly and made available to the membership via electronic copies and downloadable from the Grand Lodge website. The purpose of this newsletter will be twofold, 1) To serve as a mechanism for the Grand Lodge to disseminate information to its members and 2) An opportunity for subordinate lodges to display their good works to others across the jurisdiction.

As the editor of this newsletter I will be calling upon all the Districts

and its subordinate lodges to submit articles and as a result will make *The Cornerstone Message* a product that we all can be proud of going forward. Instructions regarding article submissions can be found on the final page of this newsletter. I look forward to serving you and this great jurisdiction as the editor of our official newsletter. Opinions expressed by the Editor and contributing writers do not necessarily reflect official positions of the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Alabama.

## Reclamation Drive (TARP)

In an attempt to give suspended Brothers an opportunity to become active again during these tough economic times. Our Most Worshipful Grand Master has devised a plan named TARP—Traveling Again Reclamation Program. This program is designed to allow suspended members to reinstate for a more affordable fee.

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

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

**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. Our Grand Master has extended a challenge for the members of this jurisdiction to go out and reclaim our lost Brothers. TARP will be in effect through July 31, 2014.



## Our Mission

*The mission of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons 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.*



## Grand Lodge Tag: Approved !!!



On April 23, 2014, the Alabama Legislative Oversight Committee on License Plates approved the Prince Hall Legacy Foundation of Alabama's Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F&AM of Alabama's Masonic License Plate design.

The tag will cost: \$50.00 and will be available for pre-commitment on May 1, 2014. In order for the tag to be released to the membership we must get 250 pre-commitments by April 30, 2015. Upon the date we reach the 250 pre-committals, the Department of Revenue will mail out our new license plates.

The funds collected for the license plate will be distributed in the following manner in accordance with Alabama State Law:

- \$41.25 – Prince Hall Legacy Foundation of Alabama
- \$5.00 – State Penny Trust Fund
- \$1.50 – Manufacturing costs to the Department of Corrections
- \$1.25 – 2.5% to Commission to the Alabama State Issuing Official
- \$1.00 –Administrative Costs to the Department of Revenue

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### **\$50.00 – Total**

\*All funds received will be used for Education Scholarships and other charity based programs in accordance with Alabama State Law, via the Prince Hall Legacy Foundation of Alabama.



### How to Order

#### To order your license plates at your county location:

1. Go to your local License Plates Branch.
2. Carry your membership card and request to pre-commit for the Prince Hall Grand Lodge Tag.
3. Pay your \$50.00.
4. Wait for your license plates to arrive!!!

#### To order online:

1. Go to <https://precommit.mvtrip.alabama.gov/UserCommit/Index>
2. Click on the "Prince Hall Grand Lodge Tag" Select.
3. Follow the online instructions.
4. Wait for your license plates to arrive!!!

Again Brothers, it is imperative that we get the pre-commitments as soon as possible to have the tag released to the membership. We've been heading in a good direction with showing the state that the Prince Hall Masons are actively involved!!! What better way to continue the hard work we're doing than by seeing our new Masonic License Plates all over the State of Alabama!

**\*\*\*You do not have to commit during your tag renewal month.**

**You can commit at anytime.\*\*\***



# Grand Master (Emeritus) Jones Honored



*Dr. William O. Jones 33° (Grand Master Emeritus)*

Approximately fifty Brothers were present to witness this first-time since consolidation in the Alabama Jurisdiction event. The lodge was named William O. Jones Lodge No. U.D. in honor of Grand Master (Emeritus) Jones.

At 7:30p.m. on January 11, 2014, Grand Master Corey Hawkins, Sr., opened the occasional lodge in ritualistic form on the third degree for the purposes of accepting and healing a PHO lodge of Master Masons petitioned by the Deputy Grand Master of the National Compact Prince Hall Origin Alabama Jurisdiction in agreement with Brother Master Masons in that lodge, a.k.a. Sons of Light Lodge #1.

Brothers who petitioned the M.W.P.H.G.L. of AL. are as follows: Ian Jackson (former Deputy Grand Master, N.C.M.P.H.O. Alabama Jurisdiction). Mr. Jackson resigned his post as D.G.M. P.H.O. Alabama Jurisdiction in recognition of his commitment to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Alabama. He will serve as Worshipful Master. The other Officers and Craft are - Arthur Jones, Senior Warden; Michael Ivory, Junior Warden; Joseph Howard, Treasurer; Clinton Maddox, Secretary; Herman Carnes, Senior Deacon; Jamari Ivory, Junior Deacon; Michael McCall, Senior Steward; Hilton Grant, Junior Steward; Willie Killingsworth, Tyler; Dwight Williams, Chaplain and Carl Harris, Member.

On January 11, 2014, the Honorable Most Worshipful Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., presided over a historic session healing Sons of Light Lodge #1, National Compact Prince Hall Origin [PHO]. Members from Sons of Light Lodge #1, under the leadership of Ian Jackson, former Deputy Grand Master of the Prince Hall Origin [P.H.O.], Grand Lodge and Worshipful Master of Lodge #1, received their Obligation of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason under the Most Worshipful Prince Hall F. & A. M. of

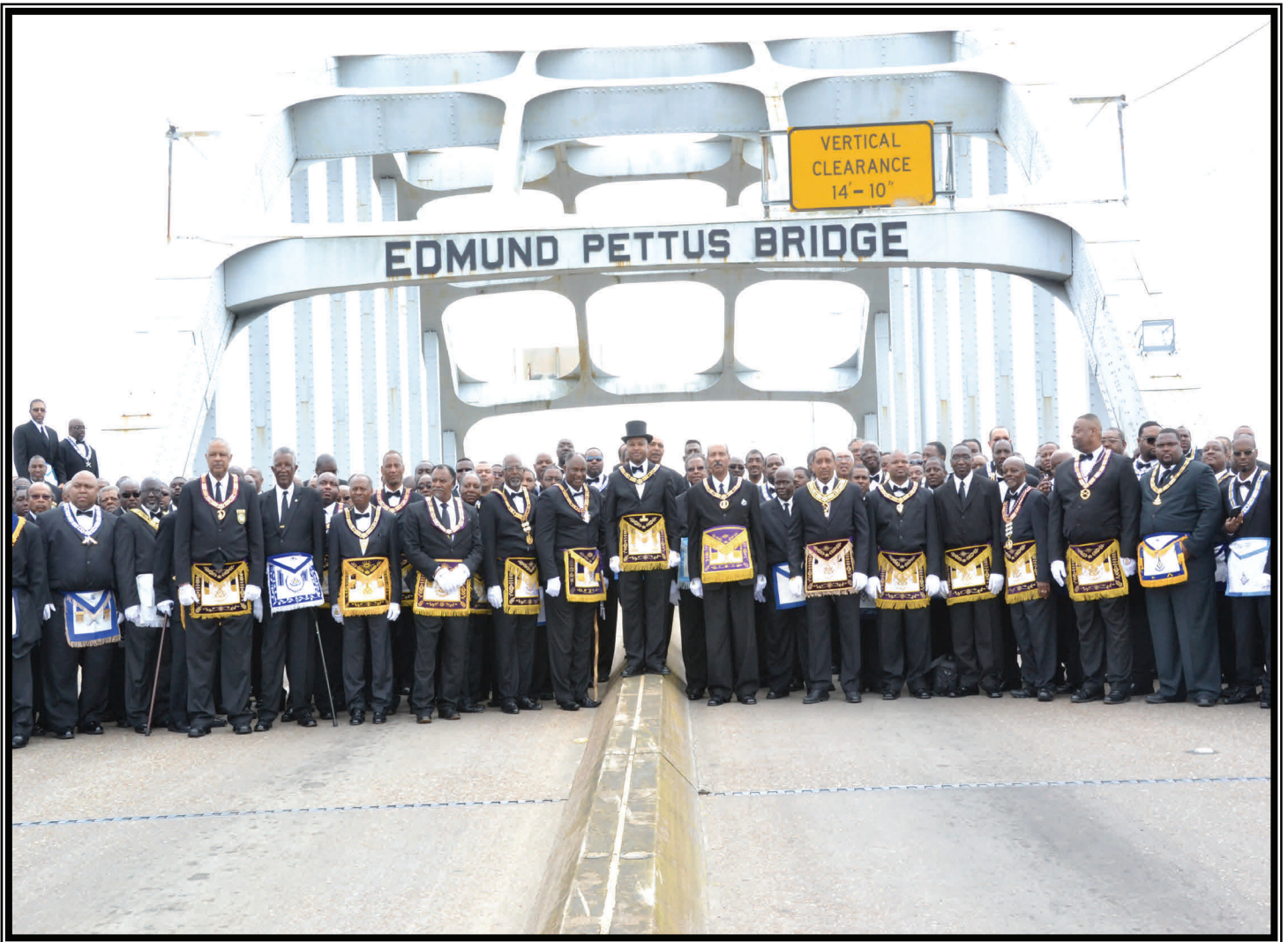
Alabama Jurisdiction. Deputy Grand Master, Robert W. Glenn, of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall F. & A. M. of Alabama was tasked with giving the obligations.

The healing took place at Tuxedo Lodge #431, in Fairfield, Alabama. Greetings and a hearty welcome was given by Worshipful Master Walter Greene and the elected and appointed officers and Craft of Tuxedo Lodge #431, in Fairfield, Alabama. M.W.P.H.G.L. F. & A.M. of AL. Brothers from all over the jurisdiction attended the history making healing.



*Grand Master Hawkins and WM Ian Jackson*

# Historical Moment for the Jurisdiction of Alabama



On Sunday, 9 March, 2014, the Jurisdiction of Alabama converged on Selma, Alabama to participate in the re-enactment of the historical march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. In an effort to get more involved in the communities, to remember our past, look to our future, and to re-establish a presence in the State of Alabama, Grand Master Hawkins called on the entire jurisdiction to participate in this historical event.

Grand Master Hawkins asked the members to consider this March as a time to remember for the seasoned Brothers and a history lesson for the younger Brothers. The presence of Prince Hall Masons at this event was well received by spectators as well as dignitaries that participated in the event such as Martin Luther King III, Rep. John Lewis, and Dick Gregory. Grand Master Hawkins stated that he feels this endeavor was a shot in the arm for Prince Hall Masonry worldwide.



# 2014 Edmund Pettus Bridge March





# 2014 Edmund Pettus Bridge March





# From Whence We've Come...

[Disclaimer: This brief sketch of Grand Master, S.S.H. Washington, M.D. is a preliminary look into his background. The ability to research deeply into his background has proved toilsome; however, what preserved documents we were able to recover will be shared upon the publication of our official Grand Lodge History.]



Alabama's Forgotten Grand Master: Dr. Samuel Somerville Hawkins (S.S.H.) Washington, Jr.

Born December 3, 1858 – Died February 24, 1913

Served as Grand Master March 11, 1901 – June 19, 1901

The annals of history among Grand Lodges have a longstanding tradition of holding those who stand at the apex of Freemasonry for their jurisdiction in the highest esteem. Grand Lodges, ours too, typically print publications that identify our Grand Masters regularly in annual proceedings, periodic bulletins and also, informal (and formal) Grand Lodge histories. The caveat in the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free & Accepted Masons of Alabama, is in the case of Grand Master S.S.H. Washington, Jr., is one that we're still currently uncovering.

Dr. Samuel Somerville Hawkins Washington was born in Charleston, Nevis (British West Indies) on December 3, 1858, to S.S.H. and Elizabeth Washington. His life was one centered on traveling, the practice of medicine and affirmation of education. The earliest record that has been unearthed on Dr. S.S.H. Washington (who was traveling with his father) begins with a ship manifest of free passengers that were bound for Philadelphia in 1876.

(No. 2.) Printed and Sold by Geo. H. Trow, N. E. Cor. Walnut & Dock, Phila.

**REPORT OR MANIFEST** of all the Passengers taken on board the *Brig Machine* whereof *C. Bartlett* is Master, from *St. Kitts* and owned by *Jr. F. Whittaker* rather burthen of *Portland* 225 Tons and bound to *Philadelphia*

NAMES.	AGE.	SEX.	OCCUPATION.	To what Country belonging.	Country of which it is their intention to become inhabitants.	Number and Names of Passengers who have died on the Voyage.
<i>Fred Sweet</i>	✓ 19	<i>Male</i>	<i>Seaman</i>	<i>U. S.</i>		
<i>L. E. Knight</i>	✓ 36	<i>Male</i>	<i>Clergyman</i>	<i>Portsmouth</i>		
<i>Mrs. L. E. Knight &amp;</i>	✓ 26	<i>Female</i>		"		
<i>Two Children</i>	✓ 3 & 1 1/4	"		"		
<i>Emily Emmett</i>	✓ 16	"		"		
<i>J. M. Washington</i>	✓ 40	<i>Male</i>	<i>Seaman</i>	<i>Nevis</i>	<i>Nevis, Port of Spain</i>	
<i>J. S. H. Washington</i>	✓ 15	"	"	"		
<i>Joseph Cox, Doze</i>	✓ 17	"	"	"		
<i>Four American Seamen, viz:</i>						
<i>Friedrich Delling</i>	✓					
<i>Charles Barion</i>	✓					
<i>Augustin Anderson</i>	✓					
<i>Andrew Wickham</i>	✓					

*and released 11-5-36*

Dr. Washington (now 21) is also found in the 1880 U.S. Census as a student, recorded as living with his mother (Elizabeth) in Suttons Township, Williamsburg County, South Carolina. A few years later, Dr. Washington is registered as a student in Howard University's Preparatory Department. On December 29, 1882, Dr. Washington was appointed as a clerk for the U.S. Surgeon General. Anecdotally, this is believed to have been a part of his foundation in medicine. He eventually graduated from the Howard University Medical School in 1886. On May 31, 1887, according to the US War Department, Dr. Washington was commissioned as Class I, in the Office of the Surgeon General.



In 1888, Dr. Washington would marry Ms. Josephine Turpin, born in Goochland County, Virginia in July 31, 1861. She was first educated at Richmond Institute. She would meet Dr. Washington as a student at Howard University, where she graduated in 1886.

Like many First Ladies of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama, Mrs. Washington too had her own list of professional and academic accolades. She served as summer Clerk to Frederick Douglass in Washington, DC, where he served as Recorder of Deeds. She taught at Richmond Theological Seminary, Howard University, Selma University, Alabama State University, Tuskegee Institute and Wilberforce University, where she would retire as Dean of Women.

The Washington's would eventually settle in Alabama, making Birmingham their first home. He spent years as a physician in Mobile, Alabama State University, Tuskegee Institute's John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital, Selma University, and also in Birmingham. He also served as Vice President of the Alabama Chapter of the National Medical Association and Trustee of St. John's A.M.E. Church in Montgomery.

His high standing in the colored community boosted him since he maintained a close relationship with Booker T. Washington. He, along with Booker T. Washington, William Hooper Council and other prominent African-Americans would sign a letter to the Alabama State Legislature advocating for the full-involvement of persons of color in voting but also in all walks of life in Alabama.

His actual initiation date was never recorded but he is believed to have become a member in 1888 in King Solomon Lodge, No. 7. He became the Medical Registrar for the Grand Lodge and was elected to Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master under Most Worshipful Grand Master Maj. Rueben Romulus (R.R.) Mims.

Upon the untimely death of GM Mims, on March 9, 1901, two days later, on Monday March 11, 1901, the RWDGM was installed as Most Worshipful Grand Master of this Grand Lodge. GM Washington's leadership was short-lived as he was defeated in the election on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1901, by Henry C. Binford of Evening Star Lodge, No. 6 of Huntsville. Subsequent years later, PGM Washington attempted to run and suffered loss each time. He was later appointed as Grand Medical Registrar.

The Angel of Death visited PGM Washington as he died at his home in Montgomery on February 24, 1913, at the ripe age of 54. He was survived by his wife Josephine and son Samuel. The legacy that PGM Washington left us was his appeal to the craft to further their education and to build a reputable Grand Lodge edifice central to the entire jurisdiction.

- Contributor RW L. Ken Collins (No. 340)  
Grand Historian



# Alabama State Legislators Join the Grand Lodge



*Bro. Bobby Singleton*



*Bro. David Colston*



*Bro. Dexter Grimsley*



*Bro. A.J. McCampbell*



*Bro. Napoleon Bracy, Jr.*



*Bro. Roderick Scott*



On Wednesday, April 2, 2014, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama reinstated four State Representatives and Grand Master Hawkins made Senator Bobby Singleton, State Representative Roderick Scott and Legislative Aid Antron Johnson at sight. This is a very big step for the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama. The Grand Lodge is proud to have these public officials on our rolls. We are pleased that they expressed an interest in becoming a part of the organization. We look forward to working and fellowshiping with our Brothers and we welcome those members of the State Legislature who are not Master Masons to come join our ranks.

Senator Bobby Singleton represents the 24<sup>th</sup> District of Alabama composed of Bibb, Choctaw, Greene, Hale, Marengo, Perry, Sumter, and Tuscaloosa Counties. He has served in the State Senate since 2005. Brother Singleton was previously a member of the Alabama House of Representatives from 2003 through 2005. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Alabama State University and a Juris Doctorate from Miles Law School. Brother Singleton is the owner of Black Belt Technologies, LLC.

State Representative Roderick Scott represents the 55<sup>th</sup> District composed of Jefferson County. He was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 2006. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Yale University and a MBA from the Amos Tuck School of Business Administration at Dartmouth College. Brother Scott is a Professor at Miles College.

Brother Antron Johnson is the Legislative Aid at the Alabama House of Representatives – Office of the Minority Leader. He is a graduate of Auburn University Montgomery and is a Certified Nurse Practitioner.

Those Brothers who were reinstated are as follows:

State Representative A. J. McCampbell represents the 71<sup>st</sup> District composed of Greene, Marengo, Sumter and Tuscaloosa Counties. Representative McCampbell received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Alabama in 1976. He is a former police officer for the City of Tuscaloosa. Brother McCampbell also served as a juvenile probation officer in Greene County and as an investigator with the District Attorney's office of the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. Brother McCampbell is currently an insurance agent for State Farm Insurance.

State Representative Napoleon Bracy, Jr. represents the 98<sup>th</sup> District composed of Mobile County. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 2010. Brother Bracy holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology/Social Welfare from Dillard University. Brother Bracy worked as Site Coordinator for Mobile County Public School System/Mobile County Health Department before beginning his political career on the Prichard City Council.

State Representative Dexter Grimsley represents the 85<sup>th</sup> District composed of Henry and Houston Counties. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 2010. Brother Grimsley holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Northwestern State University. He has been the chief juvenile probation officer for Henry County since 1995.

State Representative David Colston represents the 69<sup>th</sup> District composed of Autauga, Dallas, Lowndes and Wilcox Counties. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2010. Brother Colston is an Alabama State Trooper and holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Faulkner University.

**WELCOME TO THE CRAFT BROTHERS!!!**



# Achievements

## Brother Receives Appointment at FAMU



*RW Gregory L. Clark (No. 218)*

Dr. Elmira Mangum, President of Florida A&M University announced the creation of the President's Alumni Advisory Board on Athletics (PAABA). This group of hand-selected alumni will serve as a liaison between the president and the athletic director to provide strategic counsel and guidance on various matters pertaining to the general function and development of all FAMU Athletic Department programs. The board will be chaired by Lt. Col. Gregory L. Clark, who also serves as the FAMU National Alumni Association's first vice-president and is a former star student athlete from the three-time Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) champion Rattler baseball team.

"The President's Alumni Advisory Committee on Athletics is comprised of former student-athletes and business leaders who will serve as an advisement arm to ensure that FAMU's athletics program receives the attention and resources necessary to nurture an enriching environment for success," said Clark.

Also, Brother Lt. Col. Clark was recently selected for command by the United States Army Reserve. He recently assumed command of the 7242<sup>nd</sup> Installation Medical Support Unit in Gulfport, MS.

R.W. Clark serves the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama as Assistant Convention Coordinator and Corporate Liaison. He is also President of the Prince Hall Legacy Foundation of Alabama. Brother Clark is a Past Master of Magnolia Lodge #218, Abbeville, Alabama.

***Wanted... Good Men to Make  
Better!***

*- Contributor RW Gregory L. Clark  
Assistant Convention Coordinator and  
Corporate Liaison*

# REGION 1

## News and Events from Region 1

### Grand Master Hawkins Makes Official Visit to Region 1

The Consolidated District Meeting for Districts #1, 3 and 4 was held on March 22, 2014. It was refreshing to say the least, having Grand Master Hawkins in Mobile, Alabama. **“For he who refreshes others he shall also be refreshed.”** As we serve in an organization veiled in allegory, much can be gleaned from the experience during the district meeting. It caused me to reflect on the book of 1st Timothy. As the Apostle Paul wrote, and as I read, the rhetorical allegory sprang forth with parallels and perpendiculars as though it was written for the occasion. In some cases Paul's words spoke literally to the matters at hand.

Assistant District Deputy L. Spencer (No. 2) served as Worshipful Master, along with worthy and well qualified brothers of the Craft, to open our meeting. **A JOB WELL DONE!!** All present were very attentive as our Grand Master delivered comments and shared his vision as to where Prince Hall Masonry can and shall be in the jurisdiction of Alabama. Grand Master Hawkins' instructions to the craft were well received and there were no contentions within the Craft. Thank you Grand Master Hawkins, for your leadership and all that you bring to the organization. It is inspiring to witness your resolute stand on the principals of Masonry. "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12.

Grand Master Hawkins on behalf of Districts 1, 3, and 4, **May The Blessings of Heaven Rest Upon You And Let Brotherly Love Continue.** Thanks for being accessible, as we look forward to our next Annual Regional Meeting.

- Contributor RW Maurice Edwards  
Grand District Deputy (District No.1)

***Brothers Have You Attended Your  
Meetings Lately?***



## REGION 4

### News and Events from Region 4

## Grand Master Hawkins Makes Official Visit to Region 4

On Saturday, 1 March, 2014, Grand Master Hawkins made his official annual visit to the Region 4 Combined District meeting which included Districts 7, 8, and 10. Grand District Deputies in attendance were RW Morris Tooles Jr. (No. 7), RW Benjamin Beasley (No. 8), and RW Dexter Madden (No. 10). The meeting was held at the First Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.



During the meeting Grand Master Hawkins presented information to the Brothers in attendance from the Grand Lodge. Also during the meeting District No. 8 instituted its "Traveling Gavel" program which is designed to create fraternal competition and promote frequent visitation amongst Lodges.



*Grand District Deputy RW Benjamin Beasley addresses the membership*

# REGION 5

## News and Events from Region 5

### Region 5 Welcomes Grand Master Hawkins

On March 29, 2014, Region 5 of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama held its annual meeting. Most Worshipful Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq., KYGCH, 33° was in attendance.

Region 5 extends across the Northern Central part of Alabama and is comprised of three districts: No.13, R.W. Greg Rice serving as Grand District Deputy; No. 14, R.W. A. Derek Bowman serving as Grand District Deputy; and No. 15, R.W. Kenneth Hardy serving as Grand District Deputy. District No. 14 hosted the meeting, with R.W. Bowman serving as the Host Deputy. The fellowship between the brethren was warm and plentiful.

Various Lodges had an opportunity to highlight their charitable projects. Region 5 served lunch at the conclusion of the meeting. Headquarters for the Jurisdiction of Alabama is located in Region 5, District No.14.



*Brothers of District No. 13 with Grand Master Hawkins*



*Brothers of District No. 15 stand to be recognized*



## REGION 6

### News and Events from Region 6

## North Alabama Welcomes Grand Master Hawkins

On Saturday, 15 March, 2014, Grand Master Hawkins made his official annual visit to the Region 6 District No. 17 meeting where RW Andrew J. Fuller was the presiding officer. The meeting was held at the Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association Tabernacle in Huntsville, Alabama. There were over 100 Brothers in attendance at this year's meeting.

During the meeting Grand Master Hawkins presented information from the Grand Lodge and fielded questions from the Brothers in attendance. Also during the meeting all Worshipful Masters in attendance had an opportunity to present their respective lodge reports and to provide any information to the Brothers about their programs and upcoming events.

As with every meeting for District No. 17, Grand District Deputy Fuller deemed this an opportunity to present some Masonic training to the Craft. Assistant Grand District Deputy Anthony Johnson conducted a workshop



*Grand District Deputy RW Andrew J. Fuller presiding officer*



*Grand Master Hawkins fielding questions from the Craft*



on the topics of Ritualistic Opening and Closing of a Lodge of Master Masons.

In an effort to address verbiage in the ritual that may have been misinterpreted, information was provided to the Brothers to get everyone on one accord regarding Opening and Closing the Lodge. The training was well received by the Brothers in attendance and the objectives were met.

After the meeting adjourned the Brothers had an opportunity to fellowship and enjoy a great meal before departing.



*Brothers of District No. 17 looking on during the workshop*

## Morning Star Lodge No. 50 Hosts their 6th Annual Black and White Charity Ball

On the evening of February 28, 2014 the Brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 hosted their 6th Annual Black and White Charity Ball at the Von Braun Civic Center in Downtown Huntsville, AL. The event began with a wonderful welcome, blessing of the food and a plated meal. After the guests enjoyed their meal, WM Jerome Glover took the time to recognize several members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 for their service and contributions in the Lodge since last year's ball.



WM Glover presented the Outstanding Leadership and Service Awards to Brothers Barrington Dames and Roland Salandy for demonstrated Outstanding Leadership and Service while serving as Junior and Senior Wardens of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 respectively. WM Glover presented the Worshipful Master's Awards to Brothers Marvin Hughes and Charles Bauerle for demonstrating initiative and dedication as these were two of the hardest working Masons in Morning Star Lodge No. 50 this past year. WM Glover also recognized Worthy Matron Angela Brown and the Members of Hendley Chapter No. 855 for their untiring support to the Brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50.

After the awards presentations, WM Glover introduced Mrs. Jenni Jeffers who is the Development Coordinator for the North Alabama Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and the recipient of the Charity Donation from the 2014 Annual Black and White Charity Ball. Mrs. Jeffers gave a brief presentation on JDRF and how donations to the organization help a working plan to better treat, prevent, and hopefully eventually cure Type 1 Diabetes. Mrs. Mary Johnson also spoke briefly on the challenges of living with Juvenile Diabetes as her son; Keon Johnson has been living with Type 1 Diabetes since being diagnosed over 5 years ago.



*Ways & Means Committee presents raffle prize*



*(Left to Right) Bro. Marvin Hughes, Bro. Jimmy Benson , WM Jerome Glover, JDRF Representative*

The Black and White Charity Ball was an elegant evening of enjoyment with 432 people in attendance supporting this party with a purpose. This was also an opportunity for the Masonic family and guests in Huntsville and surrounding areas to fellowship and dance the night away to great R&B music from the 70s, 80s, and 90s to the present. Special thanks from WM Glover were given to Bro. Roland Salandy (Event Chairman), the sub-committees, and Hendley Chapter No. 855 for all the hard work that went into making this event a success.

Morning Star Lodge No. 50 presented a \$1,000 check to the North Alabama Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) on April 11<sup>th</sup> at the JDRF Dine Out for Diabetes event.

*- Contributor WM Jerome Glover (No. 50)*



# Lincoln Lodge No. 99 Church Visit

On Sunday March 30, 2014, Lincoln Lodge #99 of Madison, AL, Glittering Star Chapter #94 of Madison, AL and Goodway Lodge #222 of Meridianville, AL, did a joint church visitation to Grady-Madison AME Church, Madison, AL. The service was well attended by the Lodge members, Chapter members and their families.



*Pictured are members of Lincoln Lodge No. 99, Goodway Lodge No. 222, and Glittering Star Chapter No. 94*

## LINCOLN LODGE NO. 99 UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◊ May 17th Car Wash Fundraiser (Advance Auto Parts— Hwy 72 & Hughes Rd)

*- Contributor Brother William Ray (No. 99)*



# Obituaries



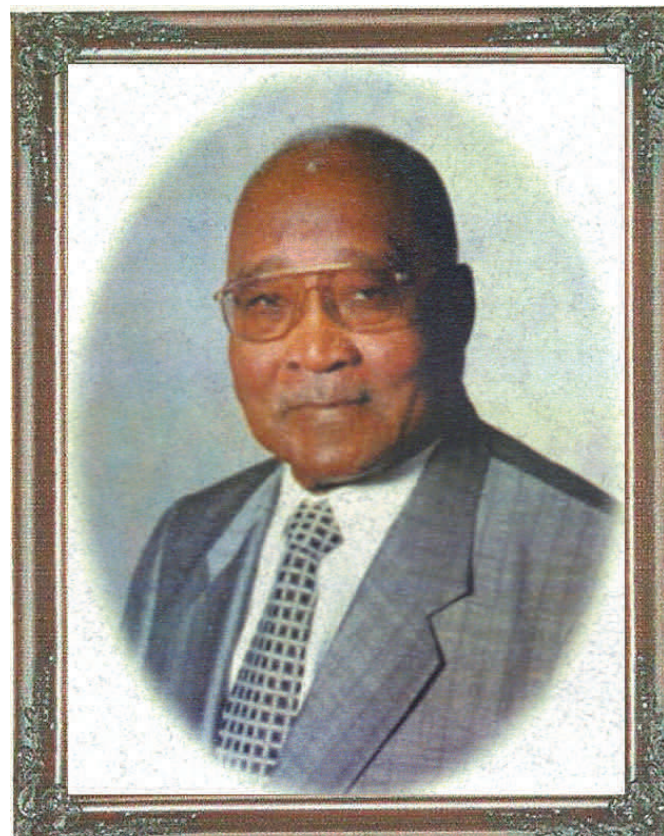
## Brothers Called Home by the Great Architect

Reverend Charles Anderson Lett, Jr. born September 25, 1914 in Muskogee, Florida, to the late Charles A. Lett, Sr. and Mrs. Elizabeth Lett. He was a lifelong resident of Daphne and Selma, Alabama. He passed this life at his home in Daphne, Alabama on Sunday, March 23, 2014.

Shortly after the birth of Charles, his parents moved to Pennsylvania where he spent his first few years. After the death of his grandfather, the family moved to Alabama settling in Mobile and Daphne. "Little Charlie" as he was affectionately called spent his early school years in Daphne (Baldwin County) and at an early age heard and accepted the call to the Gospel Ministry.

Feeling the urge and necessity for preparation, Charles entered and attended Selma University where he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts and later Bachelor of Divinity. He further studied at the then Alabama St. Teachers College where he received a certificate to teach in the public schools. Thus, he returned to Baldwin County and taught for ten years, part of which time he served as principal of the Douglasville High School in Bay Minnett, Alabama.

Reverend Lett served in the capacity of Past Co-chairman Conference of Grand Chapters Prince Hall Affiliated and Past Grand Worthy Patron Mizpah Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star (for 34 years). He was a member of David Hall Lodge No. 154.



*Brother Charles A. Lett (No. 154)*

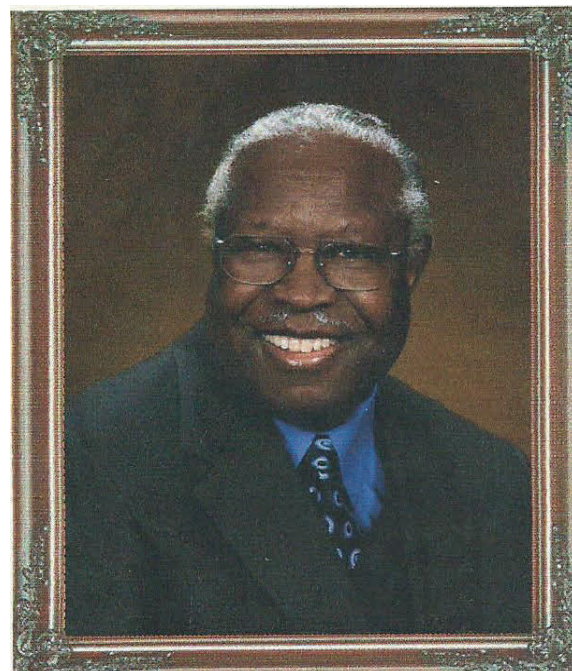
***Sunrise*** September 25, 1914-***Sunset*** March 23, 2014

He leaves to cherish his memories two sons, William Cedric Lett and Charles Lebaron (Bridget) Lett of Daphne, Alabama; one sister, Rebertha (Jasper) Williams, Mobile, Alabama; one grandson, Charles Lebaron Lett Jr.; a devoted niece, Beverly Lett (David) Lee, Selma, Alabama; devoted cousin, John F. Harris of Selma, Alabama; God Daughter, Mable Rorie, Foley, Alabama; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

# Obituaries



Brother Ross A. Betts was born in Aberdeen, Mississippi, the third child of the late Jimmy Betts, Sr. and Mrs. Goldie Betts. Brother Betts confessed his hope in Christ at Crossroads Missionary Baptist Church in Aberdeen, Mississippi, where he served on the Deacon Ministry. Deeply committed to serving his country, Brother Ross joined the United States Air Force and retired October 1, 1974. He served as Worshipful Master of Albert Holman Lodge in St. Louis, Missouri before demitting to Morning Star Lodge No. 50 in Huntsville, Alabama where he was a dedicated member and Past Master before experiencing health issues. He leaves to cherish memories of his strength, kindness, and love: wife Mitchelene Betts, two daughters Janice and Terri, two sons Ross II and Ronnie, stepson Bryant, and stepdaughter Kristen.



*PM Ross A. Betts (No. 50)*

*Sunrise* September 26, 1932-*Sunset* March 3, 2014

Brother Michael E. Hickman was born in Westbury Long Island, New York to Emma Hickman. Brother Hickman accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior at an early age. Brother Hickman was an active and dedicated member of Eastern Star Lodge No. 55 in Fort Payne, Alabama before experiencing sudden health issues. Those left to cherish pleasant memories include a loving wife Kimberly Hickman of Fort Payne, Al, three sons Michael LeWyne Hickman, Mitravius D'Wayne Prater, and Jonathon Malik Hickman of Fort Payne, Al., and one daughter, Jamia Tyliana Ford of Fort Payne, Al. Brother Hickman's Home-Going celebration was held at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, Fort Payne, Alabama officiated by Reverend Ralph Jelks.



*Brother Michael E. Hickman (No. 55)*

*Sunrise* April 24, 1974-*Sunset* March 22, 2014



# ANNOUNCEMENT

## *The* **One Hundred Forty-Fourth Annual Communication**

*of the*

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge  
Free & Accepted Masons of Alabama

*will be held*

**Monday, July 21, 2014 - Wednesday, July 23, 2014**



**SHERATON HOTEL**  
2101 Richard Arrington Jr. Boulevard North  
Birmingham, Alabama 36602

**The room rate is \$104.00 + applicable taxes per night**

When making reservations ask for the **PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE ROOM BLOCK** to get our rate. The cutoff date for the \$104.00+applicable tax per night rate is June 30, 2014. So make your reservations now!

**For Reservations Call 205.324.5000 or 800.325.3535**



# Article Submission Guidelines

*The Cornerstone Message* accepts submissions of articles, flyers, and information of events of general interests to Prince Hall Masons throughout the state of Alabama. *The Cornerstone Message* is published quarterly in the months of April, July, October, and January. Submission of articles and photographs are to be forwarded to the publication's editor via email (cseditor@mwphglal.com). Articles and photographs become property of the publication and the right is reserved to edit and use the articles and photographs as deemed necessary. Deadline for submissions for the next issue of *The Cornerstone Message* is 25 June 2014. These articles should include events conducted from April 2014-June 2014. Articles are to be submitted using Microsoft Word (Times New Roman 11) and photographs should be in JPEG format and captioned. Permission to reprint original articles appearing in *The Cornerstone Message* is granted to all recognized Masonic publications.

## THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE



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