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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Editor's Message

Reclamation **Drive**

Grand Lodge 3 **License Plates Available**

Prince Hall Americanism Football Classic Weekend

Grand Lodge Hotel Information

Temple 6 Renovation **Lapel Pins**

50th Anniversary Selma March

9

Grand Lodge Visits the Alabama State

PGM Hendley & PGM Binford Wreath Laying Ceremony

Thank You Letter | 3

PGM Braxdall 15 **Wreath Laying** Ceremony

18

16 from Region 4

17

21 from Region 6

23

THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE



VOLUME VIII, ISSUE II

APRIL

The Grand Master's Trestle Board



"Without God, I could do nothing, Ι Without Him. would fail, Without Him, my life would be rugged, Like a ship without a sail."

-Beatrice Brown

of our last newsletter, we have taken some tremendous strides as an organization. Some of those accomplishments are as follows:

- Launching of our official Facebook page
- Obtained our Prince Hall Grand Lodge License Plate
- Mass participation in the Selma March
- Wreath layings at the gravesites of three Past Grand Masters
- * Inaugural Prince Hall Masons Day at the Alabama State House

ince the dissemination I offer a special thank you to those Brothers who pre-committed to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge license plate. Because of your support we accomplished our goal of obtaining an Alabama license plate for members of the Craft. More importantly, your support will also help us to aid children in acquiring a college education.

> I also want to commend the Brothers and our Sisters for your participation in the historic march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. We really made an impression upon the entire world. There were over 1,200 Master Masons and 650 Eastern Stars who participated in this great event.

Also, I thank those Brothers who participated in the wreath laying ceremonies for our revered Past Grand Masters George W. Braxdall, Henry C. Binford and Charles V. Hendley. We will continue to pay homage to those honorable brothers who have paved the way for us.

Finally, approximately 100 brothers participated in the Inaugural Prince Hall Masons Day at the Alabama State House. It was a great showing and brought a lot of exposure to the organization.

As we are well into the spring season, we witness the new life and new growth of the trees, flowers and grass. The trees are budding with new foliage. The flowers are proudly displaying their new blooms, and the grass has regenerated a new and beautiful pigment of green. Brothers, so too has our beloved Grand Lodge entered the spring season. There is new growth in this Grand Lodge, new ideas, and a renewed interest in Prince Hall Freemasonry in this jurisdiction. Our membership is starting to bud again. Our members are proud to let their light shine and call themselves Master Masons. We are rejuvenated, optimistic, and enthused about our future. It's springtime in the Grand Lodge of Alabama! It's springtime Alabama! Let us renew our commitment and grow together!

Fraternally,

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.

Most Worshipful Grand Master

RW Anthony J. Johnson **Publication Editor**

"This program is designed to allow

suspended

members to

reinstate for a

more affordable

fee."



Message from the Editor

Greetings,

To all the readers and sup- complished great things porters of this Official since the last edition of Publication of the Most the newsletter was pub-Worshipful Prince Hall lished and you will find Grand Lodge of Alabama them captured within this titled The Cornerstone edition of The Corner-Message: I would like to stone Message including take this time to thank all our participation in the of the contributors to this 50th Anniversary of the edition of the Grand Selma March, the inau-Lodge newsletter. I com- gural Prince Hall Masons mend you on your good Day at the Alabama State works and taking ad- Capital, and the Wreath vantage of utilizing The Laying Ceremonies for Cornerstone Message to three Past Grand Masters

to the brethren throughout this great jurisdiction. This jurisdiction has acdisplay your good works for the Jurisdiction of

Alabama. We also were able to obtain our very own Prince Hall Masonic license tag and I want to commend Grand Master Hawkins on his vision in implementing this campaign and staying the course until this endeavor came to fruition. Lastly, as always I want to encourage all subordinate lodges to continue to support The Cornerstone Message and show the brothers throughout the jurisdiction what your lodges are doing in your respective areas to add to the mission of putting Prince Hall Masonry at the forefront in the state of Alabama. - RW Anthony J. Johnson

Publication Editor

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 reinstate for a more affordable

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

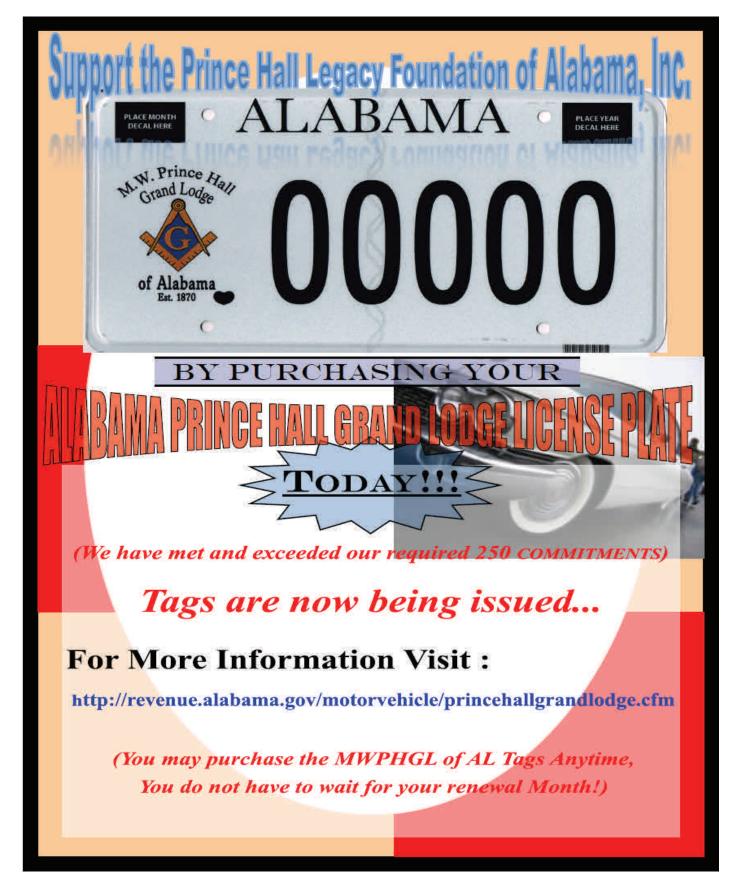
- \$20.00 reinstatement fee
- \$10.00 taxes
- \$25.00 registration
- \$50.00 assessment (Have two years to pay the remaining \$150.00)
- \$105.00 Total

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

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, 2015.

Prince Hall License Plates Are Available Now!



Prince Hall Americanism Football Classic Weekend



Make Your Hotel Reservations Now!

ANNOUNCEMENT

The

One Hundred Forty-Fifth Annual Communication

of the

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

will be held

Monday, July 20, 2015 - Wednesday, July 22, 2015



SHERATON HOTEL

2101 Richard Arrington Jr. Boulevard North Birmingham, Alabama 35203-1101

The room rate is \$105.00 + 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 \$105.00+applicable tax per night rate is June 30, 2015. So make your reservations now!

For Reservations Call 205.324.5000 or 800.325.3535

Support the Temple Renovation

ost
Worshipful
Prince Grand
Lodge of
Alabama Temple Renovation
Lapel Pins are still available
for new and existing
members upon receipt of
your donation(s). Collect up
to each level. Display your
support for the temple
renovation!



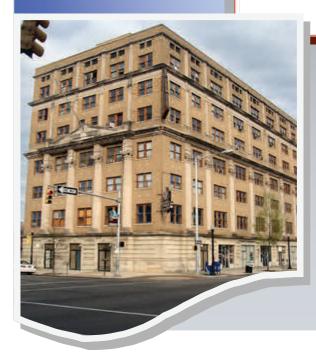














Jurisdiction of Alabama Prince Hall Masons Participate in the 50th Anniversary Selma March

n Sunday, March 8, 2015, Prince Hall Masons of the Jurisdiction of Alabama led by Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins Sr, participated in the 2015 re-enactment of the march for freedom across the historic Edmond Pettus Bridge. The march across the bridge marked the 50th Anniversary of the historic event known as "Bloody Sunday". This was the second year the members of the Jurisdiction of Alabama participated in this event. As a result of the impact that the participation has had on Prince Hall Masonry in the state of Alabama, Grand Master Hawkins has made this a staple event to be supported annually by the members of the jurisdiction.

This year's event included over 1,200 Prince Hall Masons in attendance which doubled the attendance in 2014. We also had over 650 Eastern Stars to participate. The participation at this event has served as a time to reflect for the older brothers and a history lesson for the younger brothers. Grand Master Hawkins has stated on his visits to the regions that we should continue our efforts to exercise our right to vote by getting out and casting our vote on every opportunity we have. There were a lot of brothers and sisters that fought for that right and we should not take it for granted. Finally, Grand Master Hawkins has expressed his gratitude to all the brothers and sisters that attended this year's event and plans to make the historical march again next year with even more brothers and sisters.









Grand Lodge Visits the Alabama State House

n, Tuesday, March
10, 2015, the Most
Worshipful Prince
Hall Grand Lodge
participated in its Inaugural Prince Hall Mason's Day
at the Alabama State House. There
were approximately 100 brothers
present. The brothers were addressed by Senator Marsh, Senate
Majority Leader and Quinton Ross,
Senate Minority Leader.

The Alabama House of Representatives recognized the Grand Lodge during its session. The Alabama State Senate brought the Grand Lodge Representatives onto the Senate floor and presented them



with a resolution. Grand Master Hawkins was allowed to address the Senate. Many of the elected officials were elated to see the Brothers and many took pictures with the brothers.













PGM Henry C. Binford and PGM Charles V. Hendley Wreath Laying Ceremony













n April 18, 2015, MWGM Corey D. Hawkins, Sr. led a delegation of members of the craft, to Glenwood Cemetery in Huntsville, Alabama to perform the wreath laying ceremonies for PGM Henry C. Binford and PGM Charles V. Hendley, Esq. Henry Claxton Binford, Sr. born on September 28, 1851, personified the best of the African-Americans during those tumultuous times. Being born in a time of slavery he never allowed this to circumvent his struggle for excellence, civil rights and participation of African-Americans in all facets of social and political life.



PGM Binford was initiated into in Evening Star Lodge, No. 4 in 1875, under the Compact Grand Lodge and later became

a member of Evening Star Lodge, No. 6 at consolidation. The brothers of his lodge saw potential in him being appointed Steward, elected as Treasurer and later Worshipful Master in 1888. PGM Binford is also credited with being the first recorded Scottish Rite Mason in Alabama, having been elevated as a Grand Inspector General, receiving his 33°. Binford served the Grand Lodge in 1886 as CCFC. In 1889 he was elected as its Grand Senior Warden, and from 1894-1900 served as Grand Secretary until the death of PGM Reuben R. Mims. In 1901, he was elected Grand Master. Politically, Binford used his oratory skills and publication to speak openly about issues of importance. Binford was influential with the Governor of Alabama specifically regarding the United Mine Workers Strike in Central Alabama in 1908. Binford was one of the quiet movers to bring a solution to the issue. Binford's professional life included his being one of the first African-American City Councilmen in Huntsville, professor, principal and editor of his own publication, The Journal. Binford served the federal government as an IRS Tax Assessor and the Republican Party as a delegate to the Republican National Committee Conventions.

With all of his labors having been well above reproach, he was called to rest on June 4, 1911. As we speak of the Binford Masonic Dynasty, it would be short-sited not to highlight another branch of the dynasty, the Hendleys. PGM Binford married Frances Ann Hendley, a relative of a soon to be leader, PGM Charles Vergne Hendley, Esq. PGM Hendley was born in Huntsville on January 31, 1892, the son of Charles and Elizabeth Bentley Hendley. He was educated in the public schools of Huntsville and entered the academy at Howard University, and remained there until he graduated with his A.B. and Law Degree from Howard, in 1917. Hendley would be no stranger to membership in fraternal societies. He pledged Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 1913 and became Chapter President of the Alpha Chapter shortly thereafter serving from 1915 until 1916. Hendley's leadership in Omega was the first beckoning call to what is now known as the National Pan Hellenic Council. Hendley was raised in Eureka Lodge, No. 5 under the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of DC, between 1913 and 1915. He later demitted to Evening Star Lodge No. 6.

He began his career in Huntsville as an educator, serving from 1918-1922 as principal of the predecessor school that became Councill High School. Hendley was admitted to the Alabama Bar upon his return to the state in 1919. Hendley would follow in the footsteps of his father Charles Hendley who served the Grand Lodge as Grand Secretary from 1884-1888. The younger Hendley would be elected Deputy Grand Master under Grand Master W.T. Woods, in 1932. Woods had failing health and moved to Chicago to live with his daughter, and left the Grand Lodge in the capable hands of his Deputy Grand Master. In 1936, Hendley was elected Grand Master. He was known best for bringing the Grand Lodge from a debt of approximately \$5,700 to a surplus upon his death of approximately \$220,000. Meanwhile, the jurisdiction grew from 6,264 members from 1936 to 26,442 members until his death on Saturday, May 6, 1967.

The sisters of Charles V. Hendley Chapter No. 855 accompanied the brothers of Region 6 in the wreath laying ceremonies for the two Past Grand Masters.

A Thank You Letter



humbly take this opportunity to thank the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama and especially Rev. Richard Wilson, Jr., of Cuba, Alabama for your most generous financial support toward my higher education. With your wonderful contribution to my educational progress, I have been able to excel in academics maintaining a 3.5 GPA. The scholarship given me came at an extremely pivotal time in my life and has allotted the funding for the completion of my education. I have recently earned my B.S. degree in Chemistry with a minor in Biology from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University with Honors of Magna Cum Laude.

While attending Alabama A&M University, I was allowed the opportunity to intern with Marshal Space Flight Center (MSFC) for three consecutive summers. During this time, I gained experience in the field of chemical research and business management, bringing advocacy to MSFC. I also received the second place team award for 2013 through research conducted in "Analyzing Hexavalent Chromium Cr(VI) Free Paint Systems for Space Launch System (SLS)". I have fulfilled my short term goal of completing my Bachelor of Science degree and now I look

forward to all that God has for me in the future.

With the aspirations I have for my professional career and the skills I have obtained through networking throughout my undergraduate years, I have no other option than to push myself beyond the average and excel to higher heights in my career. Because of their Talent Acceleration Program (TAP), I am now a proud employee of Land O'Lakes, Inc., Winfield-Omnium facility in Missouri. With this position, I will be allowed the opportunity to work in the corporate office within my second year.

Although I have had an exciting past few years, my education will not stop here. I am now preparing to further my education by pursuing a Master's Degree in Business Management and eventually work toward my Doctorate Degree.

Once again, I sincerely thank you for your remarkable generosity and believing in not only my dreams and ambitions in life, but other young people's dreams and ambitions, as well. I firmly believe that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!

Sincerely,

Candace Lynette Rice

PGM George W. Braxdall Wreath Laying Ceremony



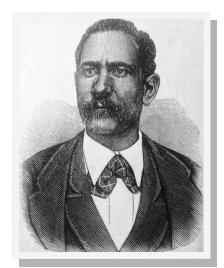






Most Worshipful Past Grand Master (1878-1886)

George Washington Braxdall



orn July 4, 1839, in Danville, KY, George W. Braxdall survived being born into slavery. From his condition of servitude by birth he came a freeman after the fall of the Confederacy.

Braxdall found his permanent roots in Talladega, Alabama. A man of determination to see himself, his family and his community succeed, Braxdall quickly rose socially amongst his African-American peers, as well as to a status of respect from the White Community.

Braxdall would serve in numerous political positions throughout his life. Representing the State of Alabama as a delegate at numerous Republican National Conventions. He was the first African-American law enforcement Officer in Alabama. He served as one of the first African-American State Representatives in the Ala-

bama State

House, and he was appointed by Gov. David P. Lewis to oversee the dissemination of rations to newly freed African-Americans, with distinction.

Our revered Past Grand Master is believed to have been initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry in 1875 within a lodge under Alabama's Compact Grand Lodge, where he would later serve as the chartering Worshipful Master of Talladega Lodge, No. 10, in 1876 and later becoming a member of Mt. Moriah Lodge, No. 12, at consolidation.



Shortly afterwards, with his known leadership abilities in social circles, Braxdall would move quickly through leadership in Alabama's Compact Grand Lodge. In fact, Braxdall became the Grand Master in 1877 and served as the architect to unite the Compact Grand Lodge and the Most Worshipful Independent Grand Lodge of Alabama.

On June 4, 1878, the official Consolidation of the two Grand Lodges took place and George W. Braxdall was unanimously elected our first Grand Master. Braxdall held the Grand Lodge together during Reconstruction and would not only serve the Grand Lodge but his community faithfully and also his home lodge of Mt. Moriah, as it's Secretary.

The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama owes a bit of debt to Past Grand Master Braxdall. Because without his fore-sight and ingenuity the two Grand Lodges would have remained estranged. But through his thoughtful leadership and quiet determination he would bring the two together.

Grand Master Braxdall served the Grand Lodge honorably and on June 24th, 1886, during his Address, he informed the body that he would step down as Grand Master. With an honorable life in politics, loving husband and servant to the institution of Freemasonry, Braxdall was called to the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens on March 8, 1891.

REGION 4

News and Events from Region 4

Grand Master Hawkins Makes Visits to Region 4



he Brothers of Districts 7,8, and 10 came together to welcome Grand Master Hawkins to Region 4 on Saturday, March 7, 2015 in Auburn, AL. Very important information was disseminated to the brothers present. Grand Master Hawkins gave the brothers an opportunity for a question and answer period so that he may address some of their concerns. The meeting was very inspirational.





Contributor- RW George Echols



REGION 5

News and Events from Region 5

Stop the Bullying Rally

n March 26, 2015, Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624 under the leadership of Worshipful Master Lonnie Myricks and Bro.

Daniel Everson chairman of the "Stop the Bullying Campaign", participated in a block party at Lakeshore Shopping Center. Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624 partnered with H&R Block, Ronald McDon-



ald House, and Homewood Law Enforcement for participating in the Block Party at Lakeshore Shopping Cen-

ter. The "Stop the Bullying Campaign" is an annual event to bring awareness to kids being bullied in schools and on social media. The block party included games and food. The brothers of Mack-Andrew No. 624 directed vendors and supervised games for the children participating in the rally.



WM Lonnie Myricks and Brother Daniel Everson with Ronald McDonald

Contributor- PM Charles Motley (No. 624)

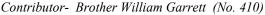
Geometry No. 410 Celebrates Nathaniel Moten's 100th Birthday

n February 9, 2015 the brothers of Geometry Lodge No. 410 and other brothers from District No. 14 celebrated 100 years of life with Brother Nathaniel Moten. Brother Moten was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason in 1946. In 1952 he was elected Secretary of the lodge, a position he held until the mid-2000's. Brother Moten has lead a very active Masonic life. He served as High Priest of Zerubbabel Chapter No. 3, member of Persia Commandery No. 2, member of Red Cross Consistory No. 2, and member of Khedive Temple No. 16. We the members of Geometry Lodge No. 410 are proud and blessed to have him as a member. May God continue to bless him.











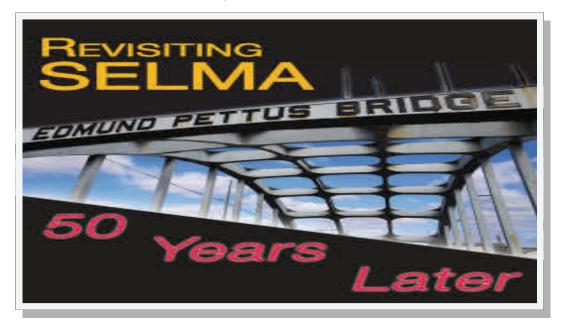
Tuxedo Lodge No. 431 Supports Selma March

n Sunday, March 8, 2015, Tuxedo Lodge No. 431, Fairfield, Alabama, participated in the 2015 re-enactment of the march for freedom across historic Edmond Pettus Bridge. The march across the bridge marked the 50th Anniversary of the historic event known as "Bloody Sunday". The march was led by the Honorable Corey D. Hawkins Sr., Esq., Grand Master, M.W.P.H.G.L., P.H.A., Jurisdiction of Alabama.

Contributor Brother Larry Jones (No.431)



Tuxedo Lode members pictured from 1 - r are Albert Taylor(Sec), Larry Jones(S.W.), Walter Green(W.M.), Lerone Graham(Chaplin), Elijah Carrington(Jr. Dea.), Michael Larkin and Everett Wess.



Steele Scepter Lodge No. 649 donates to the UNCF

n March 25, 2015, the Brothers of Steele Scepter Lodge No. 649 made their annual donation to the United Negro College Fund. For over 30 years the Lodge has donated at least \$1000 annually to this worthy cause that helps to keep deserving young people enrolled in one of its 37 member institutions. The donation is funded through our Annual UNCF Banquet as well as gifts from family, friends, associates and the Brothers of Steele Scepter. We truly believe "Education is the foundation of a well built life."



The Brothers of Steele Scepter Lodge No. 649 are pictured with the ceremonial check to the UNCF



Steele Scepter Lodge No. 649 Secretary Brother Billie Clemons, Jr. makes the formal check presentation to an administrator at the local UNCF office.



Contributor -Brother Yohance Prioleau (No 649)

REGION 6

News and Events from Region 6

Grand Master Hawkins Visits Region 6

n Saturday, April 18, 2015, the brothers of District No. 17 welcomed Grand Master Hawkins to North Alabama. The brothers came together to pay homage to Past Grand Masters Henry C. Binford and Charles V. Hendley by laying a wreath at their final resting place. Immediately following the Wreath Laying Ceremony the brothers transitioned to the Annual Regional meeting. Grand District Deputy Anthony Johnson was the presiding officer for the meeting.

During the meeting, information was provided to the brothers regarding District No. 17 and the Grand Lodge. Grand District Deputy Johnson recognized other dignitaries that were in attendance including Grand Senior Warden RW Woodie Pugh, Grand Trustee RW Andrew J. Fuller, Grand Sword Bearer RW Robert Goodloe, Grand Worthy Patron Calvin Miller II, and Past Grand Senior Warden Robert Langford, Sr.

Grand District Deputy Johnson recognized members and lodges for exceptional service including Lincoln Lodge No. 99 as the Lodge of the Year and RW Andrew J. Fuller as the inaugural recipient of the Meritorious Service Award. After the meeting the brothers enjoyed a moment to fellowship while partaking in a delicious meal.

Contributor— Grand District Deputy RWAnthony Johnson







District No. 17 Supports the Selma March

n Saturday, March 7, 2015, the brothers of District No. 17 made the journey to Selma from North Alabama to participate in the 50th Anniversary of the Selma March. The brothers in attendance were very proud to support the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge in this endeavor. The goal set for District No. 17 by Grand District Deputy Anthony Johnson was for the members to have a strong showing at the event and the brothers were able to hold true to achieve that goal. District No. 17 stands ready to support the Grand Lodge in future campaigns or endeavors.





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 15 June, 2015. These articles should include events conducted from April 2015-June 2015. Articles are to be submitted with a minimum of one paragraph and using Microsoft Word (Times New Roman 11) and photographs should be of good quality JPEG format and captioned. No more than two articles per lodge can be submitted for each edition. Permission to reprint original articles appearing in The Cornerstone Message is granted to all recognized Masonic publications.

THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Honorable Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.

Most Worshipful Grand Master

RW George D. Echols

Grand Secretary

Post Office Box 10504

Birmingham, Alabama 35202

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

RW George D. Echols

RW Charles Motley

Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624

Brother William Garrett

Geometry Lodge No. 410

Brother Larry Jones

Tuxedo Lodge No. 431

Brother Yohance Prioleau

Steel Scepter Lodge No. 649

RW Anthony J. Johnson

Publication Editor

RW Dr. L. Ken Collins

Grand Historian