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# MESSAGE 

## The Grand Naster's Trestle Board



Since the dissemination I 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 "Without God, I could do nothing, gravesites of three Past Grand Without Him, I would fail, Masters
Without Him, my life would be rug- * Inaugural Prince Hall Masons ged, Like a ship without a sail."

## -Beatrice Brown

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

## Message from the Editor



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 pubWorshipful Prince Hall lished and you will find Grand Lodge of Alabama them captured within this titled The Cornerstone edition of The CornerMessage: 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 inauLodge 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 display your good works for the Jurisdiction of
to the brethren throughout this great jurisdiction. This jurisdiction has ac-

## \section*{}

 Publication EditorHawkins 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

Alabama. We also were able to obtain our very own Prince Hall Masonic license tag and I want to commend Grand Master
suspended
members to
reinstate for a
more affordable
fee."

HRECLAMATON DRIVE (CARP): 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


## 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 TARPTraveling Again Reclamation Program. This

- \$105.00 Total

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

- $\$ 20.00$ reinstatement fee
- $\quad \$ 10.00$ taxes
- $\$ 25.00$ registration
- $\quad \$ 50.00$ 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 Axailable Now!


(We have met and exceeded our nequived 250 COMMITMENTS)

## Tags are now being issued...

## For More Information Visit :

http://revenue.alabama.gov/motorvehicle/princehallgrandlodge.cfm
(You may purchase the MWPHGL of AL Tags Anytime, You do not have to wait for your renewal Month!)

## 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 $\mathbf{3 0}, 2015$. So make your reservations now!

For Reservations Call 205.324.5000 or $\mathbf{8 0 0 . 3 2 5 . 3 5 3 5}$

## Support the Temple Renovation



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

On 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

On, 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 PGIM Charles V. Hendley Wreath Laying Ceremony



On 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 $33^{\circ}$. 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 $\mathrm{Cr}(\mathrm{VI})$ 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

## PGII George W. Braxdall Wreath Laying Ceremony



## George Washington Braxdall



B
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 Alabama 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 foresight 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 $24^{\text {th }}, 1886$, 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



The 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.



## REGION 5

## News and Events from Region 5

## Stop the Bullying Rally

On March 26, 2015, MackAndrew 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 Center. 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

## Geometry No. 410 Celebrates Nathaniel Noten's

## 100th Birthday

On 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.


Contributor- Brother William Garrett (No. 410)


## Tuxedo Lodge No. 431 Supports Selma Narch

On 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

On 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 that "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

On 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.


## District No. 17 Supports the Selma March

On 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.



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 $\mathbf{1 5}$ 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.


