



THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE

® "The Official Organ of the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F&AM of Alabama."

VOLUME VII, ISSUE I

JANUARY 2019

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Information on the
54th Anniversary
'Selma to Montgomery
Reenactment March'

2019 Regional
Meeting Dates



ALABAMA A&M WREATH LAYING

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

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THE GRAND MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD



A new year is like a blank page. The pen is in your hands. It is your chance to write a beautiful story for yourself.

Unknown

Happy New Year to all! It is indeed a blessing to see yet another year. It is my prayer that all have a very blessed and prosperous year.

This new year comes with a lot of promise and continued forward movement for our prestigious Grand Lodge. We must continue to build upon the foundation of friendship, morality and brotherly love. With God at the core of our organization and teamwork from the individual brothers working together, we are destined for continued success.

We will continue our participation in the Selma Reenactment March in commemoration of "Bloody Sunday". The event will take place on Sunday, March 3, 2019, in historic Selma, Alabama. I am soliciting the participation of all Brothers and Sisters. Please attend in mass numbers. We have had great participation each year. Let us turn out in grand style. If you are unable to make the walk across the bridge, do not be dismayed, just come and fellowship with the

hundreds of Brothers and Sisters from throughout the jurisdiction and afar. Let us not forget that this very march led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I look forward to seeing you in Selma, Alabama.

Our regional meetings will begin on March 2, 2019, and will take place on various Saturday's throughout the months of March and April. All Masters, Wardens, and Brothers are to be present at the regional meetings. Every lodge is to be represented. I look forward to the opportunity to fellowship, shake hands with and share ideas with the Brothers.

Brothers, with this being a new year, let us rededicate ourselves to this grand fraternity. We have the opportunity to make this the greatest grand lodge ever. Let us continue to work tirelessly in our community and help the less fortunate. It is our duty as Master Masons to be our brothers keepers. It's a new year! Let us rededicate ourselves to making good men better. A new year is like a blank page. The pen is in our hands. It is our chance to write a beautiful story for ourselves. Brothers let us write a bestseller!

May God continue to bless each of you and may He bless our beloved Grand Lodge!

Fraternally,

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.

Most Worshipful Grand Master

Front Cover:

Masons after the William Hooper Council wreath laying ceremony at Alabama A&M University.



PM Herman "Jerome" Glover (50)
Publication Editor

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

RECLAMATION DRIVE (TARP)!



Message from the Editor

To all readers and supporters of this Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama entitled *The Cornerstone Message*, Greetings:

As this edition closes out the year, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Grand Lodge and all subordinate lodges for a very successful 2018. Your good works for 2018 have been displayed for all to see through the use of *The Cornerstone Message*. I hope that 2018 left you with fond memories, satisfaction of deeds well done and success in all your endeavors.

As we transition into a new year, I wish good health and

happiness for you, your families and friends. If you need a place to start in 2019, a review of when you were being brought to light and taught to never to lose sight of the Masonic application which taught us friendship, morality and brotherly love would be helpful.

Life is short, we shouldn't let simple disagreements between brothers stop us from extending our right hand to another brother. If you are carrying a disagreement, grudge or any type of hate in your heart for another brother or person, please reach out to them. Find a way to sit down, discuss those issues and resolve them, whatever they may be. Two brothers should be able to have different views or opinions on any

topic and still have REAL brotherly love for each other. That is what makes this organization and world so beautiful. You don't know when's the last time you may see or speak to that brother and certainly don't want to carry that burden of saying, "I wish I had spoken to him before his demise."

As always, I encourage all subordinate lodges to continue to support *The Cornerstone Message* and show all readers of this newsletter what your lodges are doing in 2019 to add to the mission of making sure Prince Hall Masonry is at the forefront in the state of Alabama.

- PM Herman "Jerome" Glover
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 to reinstate for a more affordable fee.

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

- \$20.00 reinstatement fee
- \$25.00 taxes
- \$25.00 registration
- \$50.00 assessment (Have two years to pay the remaining \$150.00)
- \$120.00 Total

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

- \$20.00 reinstatement fee
- \$25.00 taxes
- \$25.00 registration
- \$50.00 assessment (Have two years to pay the remaining \$200.00)
- \$120.00 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, 2019.

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



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November 1, 2018

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

C: Grand Worthy Matron, Sister Shirley Pratt, Grand Worthy Patron, Brother Calvin Miller, II

Greetings:

For the sixth consecutive year and in an effort to be more involved in our communities, to remember our past, and to look to our future, I am calling on the entire jurisdiction to converge on Selma, Alabama, on **Sunday, March 3, 2019**, to participate in the 54th anniversary of the historical walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. I am asking all brothers and sisters to meet at 119 Washington Street, Selma, Alabama 36701, diagonally across from 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 and sisters to arrive at the designated time. Please bring plenty of water, snacks and lounging chairs as they will be needed, particularly by our elderly brothers and sisters. **All brothers are to participate in the March dressed in proper masonic regalia to include a black suit (including the jacket), white shirt and solid black tie.**

It is very important that we assemble in Selma, Alabama in mass numbers. Last year we had hundreds of brothers and sisters to attend. Let us do our best to continue to increase our numbers this year. 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 another great success.

Fraternally,

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.
Most Worshipful Grand Master





54th Anniversary Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March *'Bloody Sunday'*

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

**Invites all Brothers and Sisters of the
Jurisdiction to be a part of this
Historic re-enactment of our State's
History in the struggle for equality...**

March 3, 2019

National Participation is Expected
We will gather at 119 Washington Street
Selma, Alabama
at 11:00 a.m.

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February 1, 2019

Greetings:

In July of 2020, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama will be celebrating its 150th year of existence. We will celebrate this grand anniversary by taking a celebratory cruise the day following the close of our 150th Annual Communication. The cruise consists of four days, July 30th – August 3rd, 2020, from Mobile, Alabama to Cozumel, Mexico.

Many of you may have already been contacted by TraElle Poindexter of Amazing Vacations 24/7. If she has not already contacted you, she will be in the very near future. She will be able to answer questions and supply more details about the cruise. If you have not previously signed up for the cruise, it is not too late.

Cruise information:

- Deposits are \$25.00 per person based on double occupancy
- Deposits are due by February 3, 2019, to guarantee the current cruise rate
- If payment is made after February 3, 2019, the deposits will remain the same; however, the cruise rates may increase slightly
- Group Reservation Number is 5CGC82
- Cruise ship is the Carnival Victory
- Inside cabin (price per person) \$457.52
- Ocean view cabin (price per person) \$497.42
- Triple, double and suite cabin prices are available upon request. Prevailing deposit rates will apply for these cabins.

- \$25.00 deposits to lock in above rates
- \$125.00 payment must be received by February 1, 2020
- Final payment due by April 1, 2020
- 100% refunds available up to 45 days prior to sailing
- Trip protection is available at an additional cost
- Please contact TraElle Poindexter of Amazing Vacations 24/7 for more information and to make payments to reserve your cabin:

Phone: 989-482-1707

Hours: Monday – Friday 6 p.m. -10 p.m.

Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Sunday 2 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Text available: 989-482-1707

9 a.m. – 10 p.m. daily

Email: amazingvacation247@gmail.com

I look forward to seeing you on the cruise!

Yours truly,



Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.

Most Worshipful Grand Master

M.W.P.H.G.L. of Alabama



150th ANNIVERSARY

OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL
GRAND LODGE OF ALABAMA



Carnival

150th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL
GRAND LODGE OF ALABAMA

Celebration Cruise

	DATE	July 30, 2020 - Aug 03, 2020 (Immediately after Grand Session)
	LOCATION	4-Day Cruise from Mobile, AL to Cozumel, Mexico

**MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE of ALABAMA
2019 REGIONAL MEETINGS**

DATE	REGION	CITY
MARCH 2, 2019	REGION 2	YORK
MARCH 9, 2019	REGION 5	TUSCALOOSA
MARCH 23, 2019	REGION 3	CLIO
MARCH 30, 2019	REGION 4	OPELIKA
APRIL 6, 2019	REGION 6	HUNTSVILLE
APRIL 27, 2019	REGION 1	GREENVILLE

REGION 1 – DISTRICTS 1, 3 and 4

REGION 2 – DISTRICTS 2 and 12

REGION 3 – DISTRICTS 5 and 6

REGION 4 – DISTRICTS 7, 8 and 10

REGION 5 – DISTRICTS 13, 14 and 15

REGION 6 – DISTRICT 17

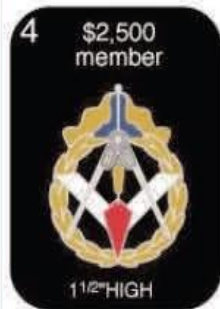
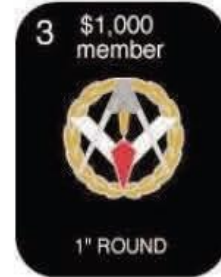
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!!!

Support the Temple Renovation

Most

Worshipful Prince
Hall Grand Lodge
of Alabama Temple
Renovation Lapel
Pins are still
available for new
and existing
members upon
receipt of donation
(s). Collect up to
each level.

Display your
support
for the temple
renovation!



Support the Prince Hall Legacy Foundation of Alabama, Inc.



BY PURCHASING YOUR

ALABAMA PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE LICENSE PLATE

TODAY!!!

(We have met and exceeded our required 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!)*

FAMOUS PRINCE HALL MASONS

- ◆ Richard Allen – Founder/first Bishop of the A.M.E. Church
- ◆ William “Count” Basie – Orchestra leader/composer
- ◆ Nathaniel “Nat King” Cole – Singer
- ◆ Ossie Davis – Actor/Director/Playwrite
- ◆ W.E.B. DuBois – Educator/Author/Historian
- ◆ Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington - Orchestra leader/composer
- ◆ Medgar Wiley Evers – Civil Rights leader
- ◆ Alex Haley – Author
- ◆ William C. Handy – Composer
- ◆ Matthew Henson – Explorer
- ◆ Benjamin L. Hooks – Former Executive Director of the NAACP
- ◆ Jesse Jackson – Founder of the Rainbow Coalition and Operation Push
- ◆ Jack Johnson – First Black heavyweight boxing champion in the U.S.
- ◆ Thurgood Marshall – Former Associate Justice, U.S. Supreme Court
- ◆ Kweisi Mfume – Former Executive Director of the NAACP
- ◆ Garrett A. Morgan, Sr. – Inventor of the traffic light and gas mask
- ◆ Shaquille O’Neal – Hall of Fame NBA basketball player
- ◆ Lionel Richie – Grammy Award winning singer and songwriter
- ◆ “Sugar” Ray Robinson – For mid/light heavyweight boxing champion
- ◆ Rev. Al Sharpton – Civil Rights advocate
- ◆ Booker T. Washington – Educator and Founder of Tuskegee Institute
- ◆ Lawrence Douglass Wilder – First Black elected Governor in the U.S.
- ◆ Daniel Hale Williams – First surgeon to perform open heart surgery
- ◆ Andrew Young – Former Mayor of Atlanta and U.S. Ambassador

FAMOUS PRINCE HALL MASONS

F Y S V W A X B O T C N E P R
 N O T G N I H S A W O I T L E
 S I O B U D L B W S H S J L D
 P N M A F R J L N C J K A A L
 K T O J L V V I I O J O C H I
 N Y V S W L B R H A I O K S W
 E O E A N O E N Q E M H S R O
 H X T C R E S N Z H A S O A J
 O A O G D O H M O R G A N M H
 Y L N A N S R E V E K N G O P
 E E V D E I S H A R P T O N B
 G I L M Y P L G F Y K O H E A
 S V U A N C M L Y O U N G A S
 B F L T H J E G E A U K F L I
 M O E T Y D H W O A X O F E E

(RICHARD) ALLEN

(W.C.) HANDY

(SHAQUILLE) ONEAL

(COUNT) BASIE

(MATTHEW) HENSON

(LIONEL) RICHIE

(NAT KING) COLE

(BENJAMIN) HOOKS

(SUGAR RAY) ROBINSON

(OSSIE) DAVIS

(JESSE) JACKSON

(AL) SHARPTON

(W.E.B.) DUBOIS

(JACK) JOHNSON

(BOOKER T.) WASHINGTON

(DUKE) ELLINGTON

(THURGOOD) MARSHALL

(DOUGLASS) WILDER

(MEDGAR) EVERS

(KWEISI) MFUME

(DANIEL) WILLIAMS

(ALEX) HALEY

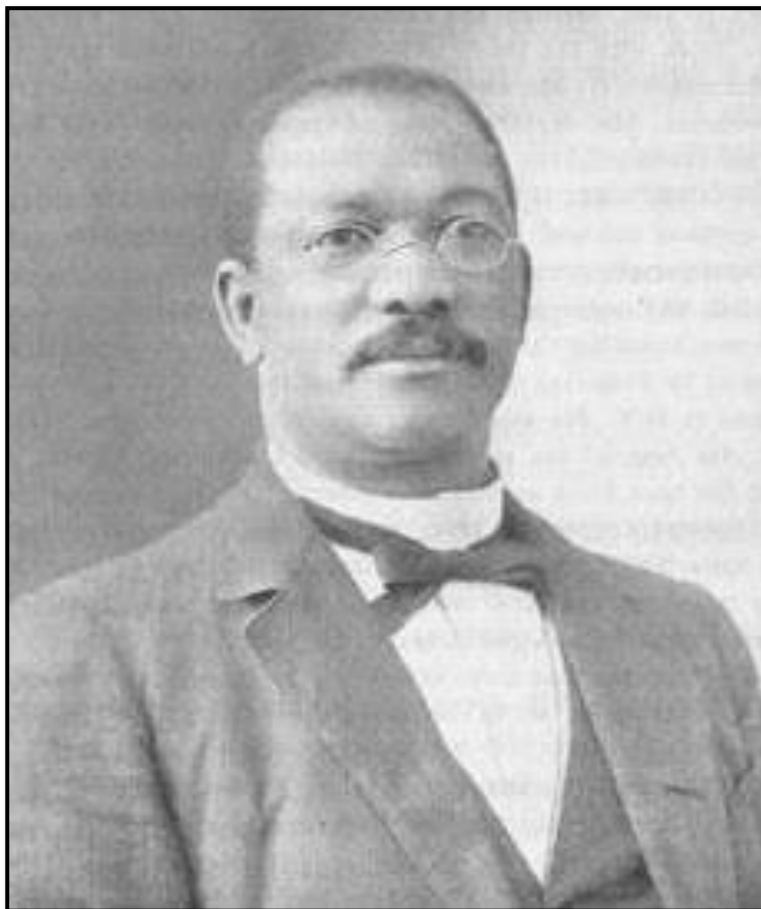
(GARRETT) MORGAN

(ANDREW) YOUNG

Wreath Laying Ceremony for William Hooper Council

On Thursday, October 11, 2018, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama conducted a wreath laying ceremony, for the third consecutive year, during homecoming week, at the gravesite of Dr. William Hooper Council, on the campus of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University. Dr. William Hooper Council founded and was the first President of Alabama A. and M. University. Dr. Council also once served the Grand Lodge as Grand Junior Warden. Brother Council was raised in Rising Sun Lodge No. 7 in Montgomery and later became a member of Evening Star Lodge No. 6 in Huntsville. The wreath laying ceremony was one of many events that took place during homecoming week.

Immediately following the wreath laying ceremony, a scholarship award from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama was presented to Dr. Andrew Hugine, President of Alabama A. and M. University, for deserving students, in the amount of \$5,000.00. Dr. Hugine was very gracious and proud to be a Prince Hall Mason, himself. This annual event is very dear to Grand Master Hawkins. He is a proud alumnus of Alabama A. and M. and looks forward to laying a wreath each year, as well as, assisting those students, with a financial need, to attend the prestigious university.





SAVE THE DATE



ALABAMA PRINCE HALL MASONS
AMERICANISM
FOOTBALL CLASSIC WEEKEND
Miles vs Morehouse

SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2019

Food, Fun, Football & Fellowship!!

A Blast from the Past



**HOPEWELL LODGE NO. 198
LEIGHTON, AL**

From Whence We've Come...

IN THEIR OWN WORDS – PART III

As a third installment of the In Their Own Words Series, we've prepared another series of addresses made by our early Grand Masters. As such, when we discuss our early leadership, in hindsight, it would remain more fruitful to let their words speak rather than them to be spoken of. The following text is taken from my book entitled, In Their Own Words: The Writings of the Grand Master's of Alabama. I give you, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Rev. George W. Bryant.

REV. GEORGE W. BRYANT

Past Grand Master

1874-75

Alabama's third Grand Master was a gentleman by the name of George W. Bryant. The Grand Master's birthdate and other vital demographics remain a mystery to the Brothers of the Craft.

A search of Grand Master Bryant's masonic background has uncovered a number of facts within the proceedings of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Ancient York Masons for the State of Ohio.

Grand Master Henry C. Binford was found mentioning that Freemasonry came to Alabama in the "fifties" [1850's]. The Grand Master referenced "Col. James Lewis and others of New Orleans, La., came here and initiated, passed and raised Simon S. Ashe, Henry Clement, Geo. W. Daniels, Wm. Little, Wm. Taylor, [Henry] Pollard and others, who constituted the first colored lodge organized in this State". Among those not cited by name is believed to have been Rev. George Washington (G.W.) Bryant.

Brother Bryant's earliest record has him recorded as the Treasurer of Wilberforce Lodge, No. 21, in Xenia, Ohio, under the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Ancient York Masons for the State of Ohio, in 1861. The backdrop of the Civil War was at play and many African-Americans at the time made the exodus from the war torn South and relocating North, in Ohio, namely Xenia and Cincinnati.

In 1862, Brother Bryant was shown on the rolls as Treasurer but also Past Master, of Wilberforce Lodge, No. 21. Additionally, he is seen as a Treasurer in 1863-64. In 1865, Brother Bryant was not listed in the rolls as Treasurer but shown in the rolls as being elected as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

¹ *Proceedings of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Alabama, August 18, 1908, p. 19.*

² *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted A.Y. Masons for the State of Ohio, 1861, p.38.*

³ *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted A.Y. Masons for the State of Ohio, 1862, p.47.*

³ *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted A.Y. Masons for the State of Ohio, 1863, p. 50.*

⁵ *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted A.Y. Masons for the State of Ohio, 1864, p.40.*

⁶ *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted A.Y. Masons for the State of Ohio and its Jurisdiction, 1865, p.46.*

With the end of the Civil War, the Freemasons from Mobile, dislocated and living in Xenia, Ohio, began to return home to Mobile. Like Brothers Simon S. Ashe, John H. Ashe, Henry A. Clement and Wm. Taylor, Brother G.W. Bryant (Treasurer) also returned to Mobile, in 1866.

One year later in 1867, the Brothers would request a dispensation from Grand Master John Jones of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. Grand Master Jones, in his 1867 Grand Master's Address stated, "I have granted a dispensation to open a lodge in the city of Mobile, Alabama, since our last communication. The honor of opening that lodge was conferred upon our beloved Bro. John Cousins, our Worthy Grand Treasurer. Allow me to inform you that the work was done with credit to himself and satisfaction to all concerned." Upon the Grand Lodge's approval of the recommendation of Grand Master Jones, this action set the foundation for Olive Branch Lodge, No. 6, U.D., the first lodge of African-American men in Alabama.

Brother Bryant was appointed to serve out the expired term of Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master L.J. Williams, who died on October 15, 1874, [1873] in Montgomery. The following year, on June 24, 1874, Brother Bryant was elected by the body as Most Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, at the Grand Lodge Session. He was re-elected on June 23, 1875, as Grand Master of Alabama.

The irony of the life of Brother Bryant is shown by the sudden cutoff of documented material facing his masonic life after the 1875-76 Grand Lodge Proceedings [which remain lost]. Grand Master Bryant was lambasted by the Craft for failing to present his annual report to the body. The only vestige of information found regarding the missing proceedings were stated in the 1875-76 Arkansas Grand Lodge Proceeding's Committee on Foreign Correspondence (CCFC) Report. He is also shown in the Proceedings as having been elected Grand Secretary in 1876, after which, he is never heard from again...

Grand Master Rev. George W. Bryant, *in his own words*:

Tuesday, June 21, 1875

⁷ *Proceedings of the M.W. Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free & Accepted Masons for the State of Ohio and its Jurisdictions, 1866, p.43.*

⁸ *Proceedings of the M.W. Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free & Accepted Masons for the State of Ohio and its Jurisdictions, 1867, p.7.*

⁹ *Ibid, p.43.*

¹⁰ *Transactions of the M.W. Grand Lodge for the State of Alabama, June 22, 1874, p. 6.*

¹¹ *Ibid, p.16.*

¹² *Transactions of the M.W. Grand Lodge for the State of Alabama, June 21, 1875, p. 16.*

¹³ *Ibid, p. 5-8.*

Dear Brethren:

Once more we are permitted to meet around our “grand alter” and bow our heads and raise our hearts in thanksgiving to the S.A.O.T.U. for having spared us amid a year of disease, &c.

It is the duty of the Grand Master to communicate in writing immediately before or after the appointment of the Standing Committees a statement of his official acts during the recess of the Grand Lodge, with such other matters as he may deem advantageous to the craft.

I am happy to state to you that we have made some progress, and I have issued three dispensations this year. More might have been done, but I do not think that the prosperity of the “craft” depends upon the number of new lodges that may be organized during the year. Yet I am conscious of the fact that the craft is in a healthy and prosperous condition. I understand more so at present than ever since the existence of the Grand Lodge in this State.

Many of the rough and unsightly ashlar have been polished up and made suitable stones for the building; others that could not be used or squared to their proper places have been cast aside as unfit for the builder’s use. Briefly summing up the whole, I can say that our institution is in a prosperous state.

I will now give you an account of my official acts for the past year:

Immediately after the close of the last session I visited King Solomon’s Lodge, No. 4, Montgomery, Ala. I found this Lodge in rather embarrassing circumstances, partly arising from an unbusiness-like looseness in the keeping of the records, &c, from some unpolished and imperfect ashlar that had been allowed to be placed in the building, and in part on account of the death of the W.M.R.W. [sic] [R.W] Bro. L.J. Williams. After arduous labor I finally succeeded in bringing them to the plumb and square, and installed Bro. J.A. Foster, and I think the work goes bravely on.

Let me impress upon your minds, brethren, to elect such brethren only to the responsible offices of Secretary and Treasurer as you know are competent and will fill their offices with credit to themselves and honor to the craft. I, with a constitutional number of brethren, repaired to Tuscaloosa and entered, passed and raised a number of gentlemen, and after due petition and recommendation issued a dispensation to them, July 16, 1874, known as David’s Temple Lodge, U.D., Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa Co., Ala. Also, to Silver Trowel Lodge, Tuskegee, Ala. February 16th, to Golden Rule Lodge, Opelika, Lee Co., Ala.

I might have done more, had not our ex-Grand Secretary, Bro. W.H. McCants, conflicted with my correspondence and overreached his official bounds.

I have called several special sessions of the Grand Lodge this year on account of business, which required immediate action, and at the request of three or more W. Masters of subordinate lodges.

Special dispensations issue: To King Solomon's Lodge to elect and install its officers; to enter, pass and raise an applicant in case of extreme necessity. To Hiram Lodge to do the latter.

I would recommend to this Grand Lodge that at this session they draft and adopt a set of Resolutions concerning intemperance and profanity in subordinate lodges of this jurisdiction. These vices are spreading to some extent, more especially among some of our older lodges.

If this Grand Lodge will issue such an edict, and see to it that it is strictly enforced, not only by the subordinates, but that every member and officer live up to the very letter of the law, and strictly prove that from the Grand Master to the youngest apprentice will not be exempt from that law, I think we will make another stride onward and upward.

Allow no brother to be elected to an office in this Lodge or any of its subordinates unless his habits and morals are such a quality as to command the confidence of his brethren and the respect of all who know him. Can that man command honor and respect who stands upon the highway and uses loud and vulgar and profane language? Can that brother be true to his obligation and an ornament to our institution who drinks to elevation and becomes boisterous? What a sad and dishonorable reflection he casts upon the craft who carries the inviolable secrets in his bosom and the emblem upon his breast yet revels in debauchery!

Then let us do our duty in this respect without fear, favor or prejudice, and the wise and best of the land will come flocking, unbiased by friends to our "temple" for protection.

THE NATIONAL COMPACT

This body will soon fade from our midst like the tree in autumn. It is fast ebbing out the sands of a miserable life. We had thought that we would hear the sonorous notes of a big gun from Louisville in '74, but, alas, it did not exceed the sound of a cap, and one that was rather damp at that.

In perusing the proceedings of the M.W.N.G. Lodge of North America, for 1874, we find on May 14th, the following:

"INDEPENDENT GRAND LODGES. – M.W.N. Grand Master, Wardens and Brethren: We, your committee appointed to define the relative position of the STae Grand Lodges working in union with the M.W.N. Grand Lodge and those working as 'States Rights' Grand Lodges, beg most respectfully to make the following report: We deem this to be a vital question, and should be so disposed of as to set rest forever all caviling, and at the same time leave nothing in the way to the removal of any just or reasonable cause for complain. We, your committee, would therefore recommend this M.W.N. Grand Lodge consider and declare that the 'State Rights' Grand Lodges are irregular and shall be so construed and held by all State Grand Lodges and their subordinates in National Union, and having revised the M.W.B. Grand Lodge Constitution, we believe, as far as we have been able, removed every objectionable feature therein contained. We now recommend that overtures be made for a reunion of colored masons on the American Continent.

“GEO. W. LEVERE
 “W.H. GIBSON } Committee.”
 “J.H. KELLY

We find here the representatives from eight States, viz: South Carolina, Iowa, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Missouri, New York, Tennessee, and Kentucky, who by virtue of the “M.W.N. Grand Sanhedrim,” declare the “States Rights Grand Lodges are irregular and shall be so considered and held by all State Grand Lodges and their subordinates in National Union.”

Such are the resolutions drafted and adopted by the representatives of seven or eight States presuming to be the eastern light and blazing star of colored masons in the United States, while in the same month, and perhaps that very hour, in different States, were men and brethren, no longer willing to be yoked with “irregular Grand bodies,” were gathering up the “movable jewels” and moving out to hunt a holy place where they might lay the foundation of a noble and more glorious superstructure and emblazon over its gilded portals “State Rights Forever” – their motto, Jehovah-j[J]irah – their watchword. *labor, omnia, vincet.*

Success has attended them, and to-day their escutcheons, are hung out with “success” written in letters of fire upon them. Again, four Grand Lodges were represented by proxies; only four by delegates in person. Yet they propose to resolute us out, while our number is “legion,” and the smoke of incense ascends from the smoking sacrifice burning with which met in a National Convention in the city of Louisville, Ky., May 15th, 1874, are fitly represented in the majority of its subordinates in the State of Alabama, then we must agree with Bro. A. Smith, of Tenn., that the National Grand Lodge is dying for want of wholesome breath.

Then let our sister sovereign Grand Lodges write over the portals of their outer doors, standing out in bold relief, that he who runs may be enabled to read, a final resolution of the “compact,” and one sovereign Grand Lodge for each State, united by and in fraternal union with one another as corresponding bodies in the grand masonic brotherhood.

I would recommend that this session adopt the funeral ceremonies of the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

In order to strengthen the young lodges, inspect the timber, and keep the craft from the innovations of unprincipled men, I have during the year made the following appointments of District Deputies: Bro. Solomon Derry, of Silver Trowel Lodge, Tuskegee; Bro. Jeremiah Barnes, of David’s Temple Lodge, Tuscaloosa; M.E. Bryant, of Golden Rule Lodge, Opelika; Rev. G.W. McClanahan, of King Solomon’s Lodge, Columbiana. These brethren will be in your midst at this session; I commend them to your generous hospitality, for they have manfully guided the craft.

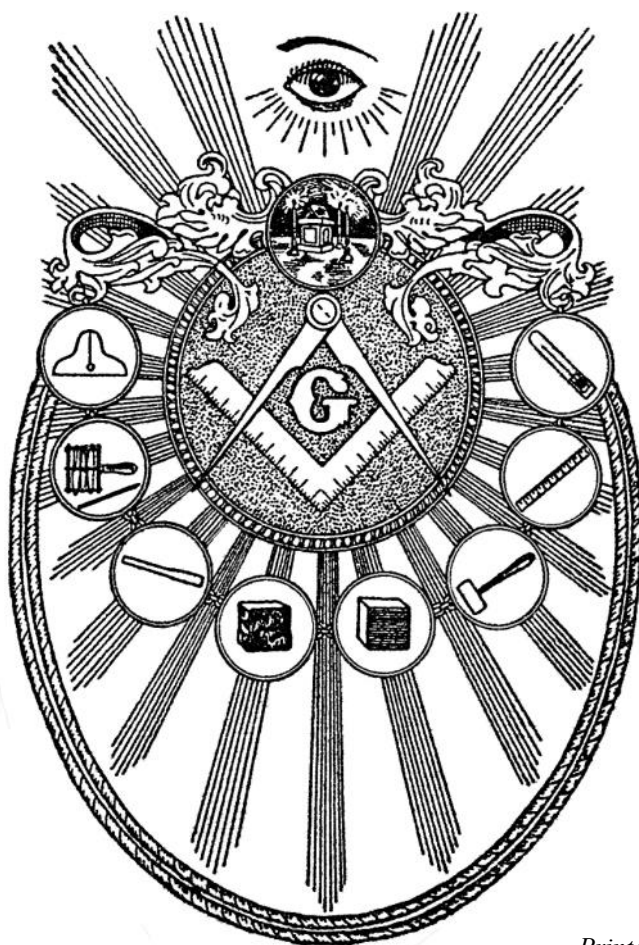
Now I have given an account of my official acts during the recess in as brief and concise a manner as possible, with such suggestion as have occurred to me as being of importance and proper to bring before you at this time for your action, as they must effect the future prosperity and welfare of our order.

If at any time this year I have made a blunder or caused dissatisfaction, rest you assured it was of the head and not the heart.

I return this jewel and gavel to you after having had it one year, and I hope during that time this jewel has not been tarnished, and this gavel has not lost it[s] power. If such be the case, I am satisfied.

Having in view the fact that we have met here at this time, not merely for the purpose of making long speeches or listening to a lengthy address from your Grand Master or others, but to transact wholesome laws and regulations for the better government of ourselves and the craft throughout our jurisdiction, looking to the Grand Master of the Universe, who doeth all things well, for wisdom to direct us in our deliberations,

I am, Thine Fraternally,
G.W. BRYANT, G.M.



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*Contributor - RW Dr. L. Ken Collins, II
Grand Historian*

Message from the Grand Medical Registrar

MEN'S HEALTH

Greetings Brothers,

I thank the Grand Architect for once again allowing us to partake in another year. However, many members of our families, friends and brothers did not make that journey into the new year. We, too, must one day leave this world. Therefore; brothers, I am stressing once again that you help yourselves by maintaining regular check-ups with your family physician. Your health is not a one way street. You must work in accordance with your physician by following medical advice — eating healthy, exercising and getting your proper amount of rest.

I encourage you to at least see your family physician at least once a year to obtain a report card on your health. We know that, as men, a good deal of us do not believe in seeking medical advice until an illness or injury forces us to seek help. I think back over the past year and continuing into the new year of the passing of people who waited too late to seek out medical advice. I am going to list some of the screening guidelines for men once again. Please do not believe that your age is a protector against illness or death. I tell my patients that death has no respect for age.

I will discuss mostly the well male examination. This should consist of blood pressure screening, along with a cholesterol screening for men age 40 to 75 years of age. We do not have any significant findings of screening at earlier ages for cholesterol in a healthy male unless your physician suspects some underlying health issues such as obesity or diabetes. Screening for sexually transmitted diseases is also recommended. HIV screening is recommended in people ages 15 to 65. Screening is done at younger or older ages depending on increased risk factors.



MEDICAL
CHECK UP

Discuss issues of diet and exercise at your well male examination. You should attempt to exercise for 30 minutes five days out of the week. Your physician will discuss with you if there should be modifications to your exercise regimen. There are multiple diet fads that are appearing all the time. Therefore; it is highly important, that you discuss and obtain the proper diet for yourself. A diet that works for one person may not be the diet that is right for you. Your physician can also discuss your BMI (body mass index) that is based off of your height and weight. People like to say that they are just “big boned” if they are overweight. I tell people that the only thing that is big boned is a dinosaur. We as a society have become of the “rush rush” age and do not take the time to eat healthy or exercise. Doing these two things properly can help extend the warranty on your body.

Tobacco cessation is a part of your well male exam if you smoke. If you smoke or ever smoked, it is recommended that you obtain an abdominal ultrasound to evaluate for abdominal aortic aneurysms. This is done between the ages of 65-75. Smoking is a very tough habit to eradicate. However; if you desire to stop smoking and have had a difficult time, discuss it with your physician to see if you are able to try one or more medical cessation methods.

Lung cancer screening is recommended in men ages 55 to 80 with a CT scan. This is for men who have smoked at least 30 pack years. This includes men whom currently smoke or whom have quit in the past 15 years. To calculate pack year for smoking use this formula. You can divide this by multiplying the number of packs of cigarettes smoked per day by the number of years smoked. For example, if you smoke 10 cigarettes out of a pack of 20 for 40 years. $10/20 \times 40 = 20\text{yrs}$ or $15/20 \times 40 = 30\text{years}$.



Men, discuss the prostate screening exam with your physician. There are varying opinions on the proper age to screen for prostate cancer. It is very important for you to have a sit down conversation during your well male exam and ask when you should start your screening process. This will be based on such factors as age, family history or difficulty urinating. These are only some of the factors and not meant to be used as a tool by the individual alone. Please discuss this very important subject with your physician as I am trying to stimulate your mind to take control of your health.

Colon cancer screening is typically done at the age of 50. However, it too can be done at a much younger age depending on family history and if you develop symptoms that may warrant a colonoscopy sooner. These symptoms could include unknown rectal bleeding, weight loss or change in color or size of stools. Once again, the key is to start a conversation about the proper time to screen for colon cancer.

Last, make sure you are up to date on your immunizations. These immunizations are often based on medical guidelines that your physician can obtain. NO, I did not forget about alcohol. Discuss the proper intake for someone of your age.

Brothers, as I state once again, treasure your time on this earth and your overall health.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from GOD? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor GOD with your bodies.

*Contributor – RW Dr. Belfondia Pou
Grand Medical Registrar*

\$ Dollars and Sense \$

Now May Be the Time to Convert Your Traditional to a Roth IRA

If you were thinking about converting your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA, now may be the time. As of 2010, income limits on converting from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA were repealed. While a qualified tax professional can help you determine whether a Roth conversion is right for you, there are several distinct advantages to a Roth that you should consider.

- 1. Tax-Free Growth** — A Roth IRA offers the ability to grow assets income tax-free. The full value of the Roth IRA can compound tax-free over an extended period of time, which may yield a greater future value than that of a traditional IRA.
- 2. No Minimum Distributions** — Roth IRAs do not have required minimum distributions beginning at age 70 ½ for the owner, unlike other IRAs. For those who do not need to tap into Roth IRA funds for their living expenses, this means that funds in their Roth IRA can grow uninterrupted during their lifetime. Beneficiaries are still subject to required minimum distribution rules.
- 3. Access to Funds** — Any distributions of earnings are tax-free and penalty-free after five tax years and age 59 ½. Earnings taken prior to the end of the five-year period and the attainment of age 59 ½ are subject to ordinary income tax. A 10 percent penalty will also apply if taken prior to age 59 ½ unless another exception applies. Distributions of converted funds within 5 tax years of the conversion date are also subject to the 10 percent penalty if prior to age 59 ½, even though the amounts were taxed at the time of conversion. (Note that there are some exceptions to the penalty.)
- 4. Contributing After 70 ½** — An individual may make contributions after age 70 ½ (if there is eligible earned income and subject to income limits). Traditional IRA contributions cannot be made after age 70 ½.
- 5. Legacy Building** — Since Roth IRAs do not have a minimum distribution requirement during the owner's lifetime, the funds can remain in the account for the benefit of your heirs.
- 6. Income Tax Free Distributions** — After five tax years from the opening of a Roth IRA, distributions are federal income tax free if the owner has reached age 59 ½, died, become disabled, or is a first-time homebuyer (\$10,000 lifetime limit). Distributions do not come into play in determining the amount of Social Security benefits that are subject to taxation.
- 7. Not All or Nothing** — The decision is yours. You can choose to convert all or a portion of your account, if you qualify. You can also convert smaller amounts each year so that the tax hit is taken over a number of years.

The rules for traditional IRA conversions also apply to 401(k) plan conversions. It may be an ideal time to simply roll over a 401(k) plan from a former employer directly to a Roth IRA, regardless of your modified adjusted gross income.

Roth IRAs are a key component of retirement planning, so don't let this opportunity pass without giving it a great deal of consideration.

*Contributor – RW Gregory Clark
Convention Coordinator/Corporate Liaison
and Financial Planner*

Achievements

Judge Bill Lewis

Judge Bill Lewis ran a successful unopposed campaign to serve as Circuit Court Judge Place 1, for the 19th Judicial Circuit. On Nov 6, 2018, the voters of Chilton, Elmore, and Autauga Counties went to the polls and cast their ballots and put Judge Lewis in the seat for a full term. Prior to this election, he was appointed by former Governor Robert Bentley in October 2016 to fill the place of retiring Judge John Bush.

Judge Lewis was the senior partner of the Lewis Law Firm, a firm he started in 2006. Judge Lewis served as Assistant District Attorney for the 19th Judicial Circuit, before going into private practice, making him one of the few Judges in the State of Alabama that has served as a prosecutor and defense attorney in criminal cases. Judge Lewis also practiced civil and family law, and over his legal career has gone to trial on thousands of cases.



Judge Bill Lewis

Judge Lewis's family has resided in Elmore County for many generations and Brother Lewis is a graduate of Wetumpka High School. He currently lives in Elmore County with his wife, Jenna and 6-year-old child. They are members of Mulder United Methodist church in Redland, Wetumpka, Alabama.

Judge Lewis received his undergraduate degrees in political science and economics from Sewanee the University of the South. He received his law degree from the Cumberland School of Law. He is licensed to practice in Alabama and Tennessee and has also practiced law in Florida.

Judge Lewis has served as President of the Elmore County Bar Association, a member of the Federal Criminal Justice Act Panel, and on the Boards of Directors of the River Region United Way, the Elmore County Community Foundation, and the Wetumpka Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of Leadership, Elmore County, as well as, many other community and charitable organizations.

In The Spotlight

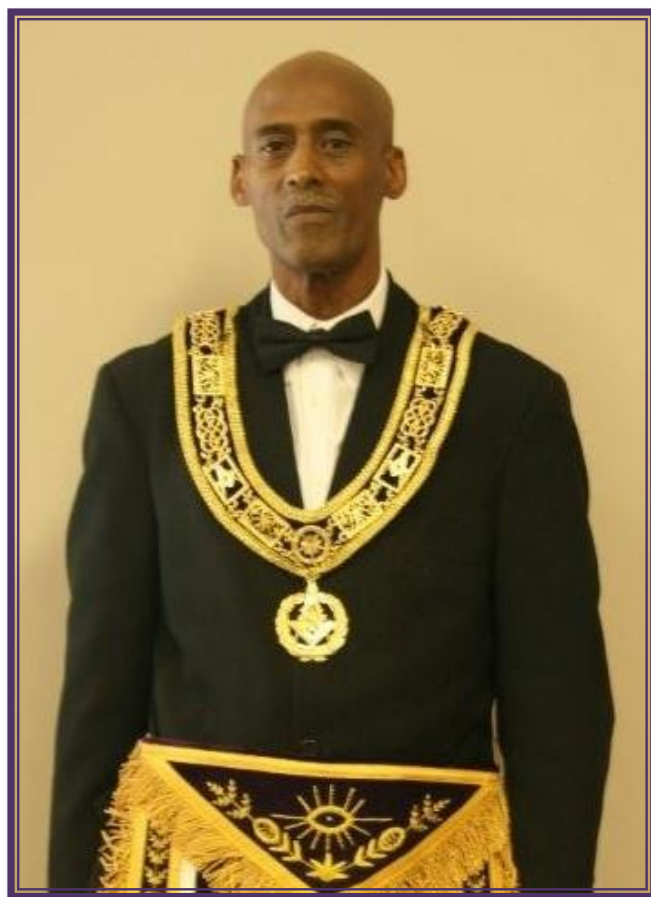
Each quarter the MWPHGL of Alabama will place one of our worthy brothers In The Spotlight. The worthy brother placed In The Spotlight this quarter is:

R.W. Maurice Edwards

Brother Edwards was born on February 20, 1965, to Past Master Perry Edwards, Sr. and Helen Edwards of Mobile, Alabama. He has been married to Sondra Edwards for 16 years and the union has been blessed with two sons and two daughters. He's a 1983 graduate of John S. Shaw High School in Mobile. Being a faithful and dedicated member of Mt. Gilead Missionary Baptist Church, he served as an Usher, was ordained as deacon (2002) and currently serving as Sunday School Superintendent.

As a young man, being intrigued of his father wearing a black suit and bow tie, along with the way he carried himself, Bro. Edwards decided to inquire as to how he can become a mason. He petitioned Hiram Lodge No. 3 in Mobile, Alabama and was accepted, initiated, passed and raised in 1991. He served as Junior Warden, Senior Warden and then elected as Worshipful Master in 1996. He served as Worshipful Master for ten years. Brother Edwards is a past member of Eureka Royal Arch Chapter No. 1, Oriental Consistory No. 17 and Palestine Temple No. 18. After graduating High School, he enlisted in the U.S Navy. He completed basic training in Orlando, FL (1984) and served 3 ½ years aboard the destroyer USS Mc CLUSKY FFG-41 homebased at 32nd Street Naval Base in San Diego, CA as a Damage Controlman (DC3). He has 29 years experience as a Mixer Truck Driver.

Some of Bro. Edwards hobbies are salt water fishing and smoking ribs. Some of his favorite scriptures are 2 Timothy 2:15 (Study), John 13:35 (Love) and Proverbs 4:7 (Wisdom / Understanding). Some of his greatest accomplishments are being saved, ordained as Deacon, serving the U.S Military, becoming a Prince Hall Mason and being commissioned as Deputy. He's currently serving as Grand District Deputy for District No. 1 and his goal is making District No. 1 the BEST district in the Jurisdiction of Alabama. He prides himself on constant studying, perfecting all masonic rituals and ceremonies and assisting the brothers. His masonic motto is: STUDY-STUDY-STUDY.



R.W. Maurice Edwards

REGION 1

News and Events from Region 1

St. John Lodge No. 2 Provides Charity in Its Community

On October 27, 2018, the brothers of St. John Lodge No. 2 participated in the Making Strides of Alabama Breast Cancer Walk in honor of Ms. Barbara Hunt. Ms. Hunt was diagnosed with Breast Cancer at the young age of 21 years old and the brothers of St. John Lodge No. 2 raised funds to help Ms. Hunt with her battle with cancer. “I appreciate everything the brothers of St. John have done for me. Without them I would’ve lost faith. I’m glad to call them MY BROTHERS,” stated Ms. Barbara Hunt.

Thanksgiving was a “two for one” holiday for the brothers of St. John Lodge No. 2 in Mobile, AL. The brothers started the day at the Salvation Army serving the less fortunate. Several connections were made throughout the community and the possibility of gaining new members for St. John No. 2. Prior to Thanksgiving Day, the brothers of Saint John No. 2 collected and compiled more than a dozen full Thanksgiving dinners and delivered them, prior to the Thanksgiving Holiday, so the recipients could prepare Thanksgiving Dinner for their families.

Contributor – PM Terrence Anderson (No. 2)



REGION 2

News and Events from Region 2

Liberty Star Lodge No. 333 Conducts “Boys In Ties” (BIT) Drive

On October 10, 2018, the brothers of Liberty Star Lodge No. 333 conducted a “Boys In Tie” (BIT) Drive. Worshipful Master Folante Perry works for the Tuscaloosa City Schools. He saw a need regarding young men in the school system and Liberty Star Lodge No. 333 decided to start the Tie Drive. The drive creation came from students asking the adult males in the building if they could have their tie to wear to school to look like them and to dress nicely for special school programs and events. The Tie Drive, actually expanded into a Belt Drive, as well, many of the donors gave ties and belts for elementary students.

The drive’s goal was to collect 100 ties; however, the drive collected a total of 513 ties and 120 belts for the male students in the Tuscaloosa City Schools. The lodge was able to give every male student at Central Elementary a tie of their choice and a belt to wear. Many of students received two to five ties for themselves, siblings, and a student requested a tie for his dad. The student stated, “I asked for a tie for my dad because he was looking for a new job and I wanted him to look nice.” The lodge also donated ties for the school’s Ambassadors Program to highlight their blazers. WM Folante Perry serves as the school’s 21st Century After School Director. The 21st Century Program is a federally funded program that provides academic and enrichment activities Monday-Friday and for a four-week summer program at zero cost to parents for students. The brothers of Liberty Star Lodge No. 333 are busy in their communities promoting Prince Hall Masonry.

Contributor - WM Folante Perry (No. 333)

Top: WM Folante Perry passing out belts to students

Bottom: WM Folante Perry donating to the STAR Program



REGION 4

News and Events from Region 4

District Seven Supports the 100 Black Men of America, Inc.

On Friday, December 14, 2018, several members of District Seven were on hand to support the Greater Auburn/Opelika Chapter of 100 Black Men of America, Inc., as they held their Annual Scholarship Gala. Worshipful Master Clem Tolbert, Jr., RW Carlton Jones, and RW George Echols were in attendance for the scholarship gala. The event was held at Greater Peace Family Life Center in Opelika, Alabama. Pastor of Greater Peace Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Clifford E. Jones is the chapter's president. The organization's motto, "What They See Is What They'll Be" expresses how their programmatic services rendered to disadvantaged, disenfranchised and low-income youth and families positively change their lives trajectory. There were several notables on hand for the event, Alabama House Representative for District 83, Jeremy Gray and Opelika City Councilwoman and retired educator Patsy Jones, were both in attendance. The evening theme was "Transitioning from Boyhood to Manhood the 100 Way". The keynote speaker and Vice Chairman of 100 Black Men of America, Inc., was Mr. Albert E. Dotson, Jr. Mr. Dotson stressed the importance of getting involved in the schools and embracing the spirit of volunteerism in the schools and community. The highlight of the evening was awarding scholarships to six deserving college students who have excelled in the classroom and the community.

Contributor – RW Carlton Jones (No. 428)



Top Picture: Group photo of the 100 Black Men of America, Inc., Auburn/Opelika Chapter

Bottom Picture: Members of District No. 7: WM Clem Tolbert, Jr., RW Carlton Jones, RW George Echols

In the Zone with Golden Rule No. 11

In the month of November, the brothers of Golden Rule Lodge No. 11 held their quarterly outreach activities and continued with their mentoring program. The lodge mentors had breakfast with their mentees, continued the Ward 2 clean up by picking up trash and old tires throughout the neighborhood. The lodge was also blessed to be able to supply food for five families for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

In the month of December, the brothers of Golden Rule partnered with several civic and social clubs along with the Opelika Housing Authority to sponsor a Christmas toy and bike give away. Golden Rule manned the grill, played the role of Old Saint Nick and donated toys to over 100 kids. Golden Rule also participated with the Ward 2 Academy's "Hot Chocolate with Santa Party" where WM Baker played the role of Santa with several helpers from the lodge. Golden Rule provided ten residents of Arbor Springs Rehab Facility with toiletry bags and gifts for Christmas. The year of 2018 has been one busy year for the brothers of Golden Rule Lodge No. 11 to be proud of. The brothers continued their commitment of taking charge of community efforts to support the families and their youth. Golden Rule will continue being that light for all to see in its community.

Contributor – WM Derric Baker (No. 11)



A Night to Remember with Abraham Lodge No. 267



On December 7th, the brothers of Abraham Lodge No. 267 hosted their 13th Annual Fellowship Night in commemoration of Saint John the Evangelist. Abraham Lodge welcomed Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq., Deputy Grand Master Robert W. Glenn, numerous other Grand Lodge Officers, brothers from various lodges, local politicians, family and members of the community to their Annual Fellowship Night.

Members in attendance were able to learn more about St. John who was considered the most loyal and trusted of Jesus's disciples and the one closest to Jesus. He also represented the coming of a new year. St. John's Day is dated back in Christian history, the sun and the moon was key to many understandings of the world at that time. This became so important to early Christians as well that they placed John the Evangelist's day of recognition and celebration in accordance with the winter solstice.

The evening was planned and orchestrated in grand fashion. WM Clifford Benson, with the help of Grand Master Hawkins and Deputy Grand Master Glenn, took time during the program to recognize brothers within the lodge for their hard work and dedication with awards. The guests had the pleasure of hearing a dynamic speaker who concluded the night. Following the program, guests were invited to fellowship upstairs in the lodge room for a delicious catered full-course dinner.

Fellowship Night is hosted yearly by the brothers of Abraham Lodge No. 267 on the First Friday night in December at 7pm.

Contributor – PM Roderick Caswell (No. 267)

Hamilton Lodge No. 365

Provides Charity in Its Community

On October 14, 2018, the brothers of Hamilton Lodge No. 365 and The Blueheart Foundation teamed up with The Alzheimer's Association, to host an Alzheimer's Walk which was held on the campus of Auburn University Montgomery. The walk was led by Hamilton Lodge's very own Bro. Brian Smith, who lost his grandmother to Alzheimer's disease in April of 2018. Hamilton Lodge No. 365 and The Blueheart Foundation raised over \$500 for the Alzheimer's Association. Bro. Smith formed The Purple Rangers Walking team to walk in honor of his late grandmother.



On October 24th, the brothers of Hamilton Lodge surprised the residents at Capital Hill Nursing Home with a Trick or Treat. Lodge members went to each resident's room to deliver candy and smiles to brighten up their day. The lodge members shared their love with every resident at Capital Hill Nursing Home in hopes that it's a little something to keep the resident's spirits up until their next visit.



On November 16th, the brothers of Hamilton Lodge and The Blue-Heart Foundation visited Davis Elementary School to pass out crayons and coloring books to all the kids. The children were also surprised with fire fighter toys that were donated from The Montgomery Fire Department.

On November 19th, the brothers of Hamilton Lodge No. 365 teamed up with Mt. Hillard AME Zion Church in Montgomery, Alabama to help pass out hot Thanksgiving meals to the neighborhood. The lodge members helped by assisting on the food assembly line, going door to door reaching out to people informing them of the free Thanksgiving meal, directing traffic as needed and also helping with the break-down of the event.



On November 21st, Hamilton Lodge No. 365 and The BlueHeart Foundation 334, were awarded a proclamation from the Mayor of the City of Montgomery for all their hard work and dedication giving back to the communities in Montgomery, Alabama. This is the lodge's second proclamation from Mayor Todd Strange, and he was excited to see the members of Hamilton Lodge again. He informed the lodge members that they were doing great work in the Montgomery communities and he asked the lodge to keep up the great work. Both groups, Hamilton Lodge No. 365 and The BlueHeart Foundation received proclamations signed by Mayor Todd Strange.



On December 21st, the brothers from Hamilton Lodge No. 365 and Grand District Deputy Donald Parks, surprised the kids at Baptist Medical Center East that couldn't go home for Christmas. This is Hamilton Lodge's third year doing this activity. The lodge brings teddy bears, Christmas spirit, love, and most importantly Santa Claus. The staff at Baptist Medical Center East loves it when the lodge come because they bring excitement and joy to the children's faces.



On December 22nd the brothers of Hamilton Lodge No. 365 donated bikes to a deserving family in Montgomery, AL. The lodge picked one family that it felt they could help for Christmas. The lodge donated three bikes and new clothes to the family. "We do this every year to show people who Prince Hall Masons are. We must get in the community and show the people that we are here to help where needed. That's what Prince Hall Masonry is all about", stated WM Belser.



Contributor – Bro. Brian Smith (No. 365)

Phoenix Lodge No 428's Holiday Nursing Home Visit

On December 18th, the brothers of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 got into the holiday spirit by visiting some of their fellow citizens who are less fortunate. During the holiday season, people are too busy and tend to forget about those who are typically overlooked. Phoenix Lodge No. 428 took time out of its busy holiday schedule to visit Parkwood and Canterbury Nursing Homes. The brothers arrived at the nursing homes and began distributing gift cards and gifts among the residents at the facilities. Instructions and a group prayer were given prior to going inside to deliver the gifts to every resident at the nursing homes. The brothers shared laughter and smiles with the staff and residents of both nursing homes. The visit was special as the brothers got an opportunity to enjoy conversation, fellowship, singing and singing.



Phoenix Lodge No. 428 Brings Community Relief

Tis the season.... What greater joy is there than giving to those in need? Phoenix Lodge No. 428 is at it again. Each holiday season the brothers of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 put their minds together to reach those in need during the holiday season. It was the privilege of the brothers of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 to have Annie Poles, a former foster care supervisor for Russell County DHR, reach out to the lodge in hopes of getting support for her hurricane relief victims in Southern Alabama. Mrs. Poles put together care packages for as many victims as she could and wanted to know if the lodge could assist in helping to provide toys for the children. In times of distress and rebuilding, one can overlook such things as Christmas toys. Phoenix Lodge No. 428 was extremely excited and grateful to be of assistance in providing toys, so the children could have a sense of normalcy during their tough times.

In addition to the toy drive, Phoenix Lodge No. 428 also partnered with Russell County Department of Human Resources to sponsor two foster children for Christmas.



The lodge felt privileged to have the resources to look out for those who are less fortunate. Phoenix Lodge No. 428 was obliged to help and are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Russell County Department of Human Resources in efforts to spread holiday cheer and let their light shine for the world to see.

Contributor - WM Keith Daniel (No. 428)

Mount Nebo Lodge No. 511

Hosts Educational Trip for Local Team



Team Captain Kemetria Tyson, Coach AD Drew, Principal Lasisi Hooks, WM Eddie Moore, Coach Maurice Williams, Bro. Henry Wilson, Team Captain Morgan Hunter, and Bro. Dominguez Hurry.

On November 15, 2018, the brothers of Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 511 helped sponsor a trip to Jackson, Mississippi for the Notasulga High School Girls Basketball Team of Notasulga, AL for their opening game. This was an educational trip, as well as, the young ladies experienced a civil rights tour and visited colleges in the area. The lodge was very pleased to assist in this endeavor.

November 30th, the brothers of Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 511 united to clean up the mile they adopted on U.S. Highway 29 south of Tuskegee, AL. The mile is in front of the lodge hall and Mt. Nebo Baptist Church. The brothers met that morning at the lodge for prayer and a safety briefing prior to the cleanup. At the end of the cleanup, a total of 22 large bags of trash were picked up along the highway. Let's keep Alabama the beautiful by not littering.

Contributor – Brother Dominguez C. Hurry (No. 511)

South Griffin Lodge No. 697

Shows the Community some Holiday Cheer

On November 16, 2018, the brothers of South Griffin Lodge No. 697 volunteered at the Annual 24-Hour Radiothon hosted by Davis Broadcasting, Inc. This fundraiser was for kids in the Chattahoochee Valley area who may not experience a Happy Christmas. The brothers worked on the phones to secure monetary pledges. All the proceeds went toward the purchase of Christmas toys and bikes for several hundred kids in the local communities.

On December 21st, the brothers of South Griffin Lodge No. 697 showed holiday love to their surviving widows of the lodge. The brothers visited the following four widows: Ms. Natalie Jackson (PM Michael Jackson), Ms. Jessie Sumbry (Bro. Arthur Sumbry, Sr.), Ms. Corra Miles (Bro. Irving Miles), and Ms. Williams (Bro. A.D. Williams). This is an annual lodge event that is held in December. The lodge hosted a small fellowship with the widows and provided gift baskets and monetary gifts for Christmas.

Contributor – Bro. Oree Heard, Jr. (No. 697)



Shorter Lodge No. 533 Hosts Annual Christmas Toys and Treats

On December 12, 2018, the brothers of Shorter Lodge No. 533 met at the lodge in Shorter, AL to prepare bags for their Annual Christmas Treats Giveaway. This event is special to the brothers because they get a chance to fellowship outside of business meeting while preparing treat bags for the elderly brothers that are members of Shorter Lodge No. 533 that are not able to come to meetings or fellowship, as well as, for the widows of brothers that have passed away. Once the lodge served the elderly members, it also took time to pass out bags to families in their community. The brothers prepared and gave away over 50 bags this year and look to continue to grow next year.

On December 22th, the brothers of Shorter Lodge No. 533 in conjunction with the sisters of Sojourner Truth Chapter No. 265, OES held their Annual Christmas Toy Giveaway. The event was held at the Wall Street Community Center in Tallassee, AL and it continues to grow bigger every year. This year, brothers and sisters gave away over 100 bicycles for various ages and every child left with at least two toys or more. The community was a big supporter of the event and donated toys, monies and volunteer services for it. Santa was able to ride in on the fire truck with the help of the local fire department. A bounce house was donated for the kids to jump on along with free food for the families that came out.

Contributor – Bro. Joshua Anthony (No. 533)



W.T. Woods Lodge No. 842 Bridges the Gap in Its Community

On October 20th, members of W.T. Woods Lodge No. 842 gathered together with the community and first responders of Montgomery in their first Chat and Chew session. The purpose of the event was to bridge the gap between the community, church leaders, and the first responders in the capital city. This event was just one of many events, actions and programs that W.T. Woods Lodge No. 842 has spearheaded to reach out to the community. It was the goal of W.T. Woods Lodge No. 842 to provide an informal environment for the community to meet and communicate with city leaders and voice their concerns, asks questions and receive vital information to help keep their neighborhoods safe and save a life in the event of an emergency.

Event coordinator, Past Master Tiebetabasi Essiet said in a news interview, “A lot of times we don’t get a chance to communicate with the first responders until it’s too late, unless it is an emergency, or a crime has already been committed. By opening these lines of communication, I think a lot of stuff could

be prevented...” In addition to the question and answer session, participants and the audience were treated to a free lunch that consisted of

jambalaya and roasted chicken all prepared courtesy of the Lodge. This was W.T. Woods’ way of letting the community know that it cares and letting the first responders know they have the support of the community. Overall, the event was a success with a good turn out from the community.

Also, on October 20th, W.T. Woods Lodge No. 842 made a generous food donation to the Patriots Adult Coalition. Charity work is not only a way to give back to the community, but a way to connect with the people who are being helped and served. That is exactly what the members of W.T. Woods Lodge No. 842 attempted to do with their recent event. W.T. Woods partnered with the Patriots Adult Coalition, a local soup kitchen in Montgomery to assist in their efforts to feed the community one person at a time. LaVeeda Cooper, CEO of the Patriots Adult Coalition, sent her personal thanks for the donations: “Thank you, thank you, thank you for your donations of 36 rotisserie chickens, two large pans of jambalaya and two large bags of dinner rolls, again, thank you for everything.” This partnership is just one of many charity projects in operation under W.T. Woods Lodge No. 842 and the lodge hopes it is the start to success in reaching out to the community.

Contributor – WM George Harris (No. 842)



Top; Members of the community being served at the Chat and Chew sponsored by W. T. Woods lodge No. 842

Bottom: Past Master Tiebetabasi Essiet being interviewed on a local TV program to publicize the Chat and Chew sponsored by W. T. Woods Lodge No. 842

REGION 5

News and Events from Region 5

Pride of Jemison Clanton Lodge No. 630 Hosts Impact 2018 Male Youth Summit



On December 8, 2018, the brothers of Pride of Jemison Clanton Lodge No. 630 partnered to help host the Impact Male Youth Summit designed to address the unique needs of males in grades 6th – 12th in Prattville in the River Region. The Summit was a one-day event involving over 100 young men with seven breakout sessions and a general session that focused on the NCAA Clearing House for athletes. Breakout sessions included classes on academic excellence, career options, and credits. These young men also learned conflict resolution techniques, to deal with law enforcement, as well as, understanding entrepreneurship and financial literacy. Pride of Jemison Clanton Lodge No. 630 was proud to partner in this worthwhile endeavor and joined with seven other sponsors to make the day a success. The lodge thanked Chris Jackson with Brother to Brother Mentors, Oscar Berry with Alabama Edge, Anthony Brock with Valiant Cross Academy, Brother Marcus Jackson with the Prattville City Council, Regions Bank, and the City of Prattville Police for laboring with us for the benefit of the young men of Prattville. The brothers of Pride of Jemison Clanton Lodge No. 630 are prayerful that this is the beginning of a long and impactful partnership that will continue to grow and change lives.

Contributor – WM Antoine Head (No. 630)



New Beginning Lodge No. 970 Brings the Holiday Spirit to the Community

During the month of December in a continuous effort to help guide and shape the youth, New Beginning Lodge No. 970 mentors a Student Club at Center Point High School. This co-ed Student Youth group is called the G.U.M.B.O.S. Club which stands for: Greater Understanding of Multiple Blends of Students and the brainchild of New Beginning's Worshipful Master Ron Boone. This year New Beginning provided 65 Christmas gift bags to the G.U.M.B.O.S. Club. These gift bags

were given to students that are a part of the after-school program at Center Point Elementary School.



As part of New Beginning's ongoing relationship with the Love Lady Center, the brothers of New Beginning Lodge No. 970 made a pantry donation and supplied over 600 wire hangers. Through their continued communication as to the needs of the center, the lodge learned that their pantry stores usually take a significant hit after the holidays, and with nearly 420 women and just under 250 kids, the laundry department has a vast shortage of hangers. New Beginning coordinated with Kristin Smith, the Community Outreach Director to provide much needed pantry items and hangers. The brothers of New Beginning look forward to their 2019 Male Youth Mentor-

ing Program.



Christmas Eve 2018 was a working day for the brothers of New Beginning Lodge No. 970 as they broke from the usual tradition of the Angel Tree Donation. The brothers decided to directly support families participating in the Christmas Secret Santa Campaign in which the lodge supplied toys and gifts to three families with a total of seven children of various ages. The parents were grateful, the kids were overjoyed and the joy of giving filled the brothers' hearts.

New Beginning Lodge No. 970 Hosts Wives Appreciation Dinner

On Saturday, November 3, 2018, New Beginning Lodge No. 970 hosted a Wives Appreciation Dinner. Members of New Beginning along with their wives, fiancés and their only widow gathered for a day of appreciation. Worshipful Master Ron Boone and the brothers wanted to show their appreciation and thanks to the spouses & fiancés because they make incredible sacrifices that allow brothers to participate in the many events and meetings throughout the year. A special award was presented to their only widow for her continued support of the lodge.

Right Worshipful Walter Greene, 33° served as the special guest speaker for the event. RW Greene offered a distinct insight and words of encouragement to the married and soon to be married couples. He also focused on the brother's commitment to the craft but emphasized keeping God and family first.

The guests were offered a relaxing setting complete with jazz music during the meet and greet reception. The reception was followed by a delicious three course meal prepared by the lodge's very own Bro. Carlos Bozeman. Guests were given an appreciation gift and a certificate.

Contributor- Bro. Gerald Beal (No. 970)



Dothan No. 112 and New Beginning No. 970 Host Annual Thanksgiving Feeding

On Thanksgiving 2018, the brothers of New Beginning Lodge No. 970 and Dothan Lodge No. 112 hosted its Annual Thanksgiving Feeding at Debaradeladen Park in Bessemer, Alabama. This annual event provided a traditional Thanksgiving meal of turkey, dressing, green beans, yams, rolls, beverages and desserts. Other lodges that supported this event were: P.S. Howard Lodge No. 516, Triple Tau Lodge No. 104, and William O Jones Lodge No. 971. Several Order of Eastern Star Chapters held a clothing and toiletry drive to upkeep hygiene and supply winter clothing. This event was captured on the local CBS affiliate, Channel 42.



In addition to the Annual Thanksgiving feeding in the Park, brothers of New Beginning Lodge No. 970 delivered over ten turkeys to deserving families on Thanksgiving Day. The brothers partnered with Ms. Meldryn Jones of Macy's to provide a fulfilling holiday experience for those less fortunate in the Birmingham area. Turkeys and gift boxes were donated to families in Bessemer, Fairfield, and Center Point areas of Birmingham.

Pride of North Birmingham No. 319 Sponsors the Pride Scholars Initiative

October 2, 2018, the brothers of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 sponsored five children to be able to experience the BBVA Compass IRON CITY Showdown. The BBVA Compass Iron City Showdown is an NBA preseason game in which the Houston Rockets played against the Memphis Grizzlies at Legacy Arena in Birmingham. This was a once in a lifetime event for many of the kids that wouldn't ordinarily get an opportunity to ever see a professional team play or come together with other kids outside of their communities to get the exposure. The Pride Scholars initiative works within the Youth Involvement and Mentoring program to assist in steering youth and young adults to make positive and productive life choices. The initiative seeks to impact males starting at age 10 through 19 through tutoring, life skills training, reading, math, hygiene awareness, dating tips, financial literacy, public speaking, and much more!

The members of Pride of North Birmingham No. 319 were thanked for being able to be a part of providing an alternative so that kids have an opportunity to see something different to ultimately make better life choices!



Contributor- WM Gerren K. Whitlock, Sr. (No. 319)

REGION 6

News and Events from Region 6

District No. 17 Conducts Mid-Year Joint Worshipful Masters Council Workshop

Every year during the month of December, the Northeast and Northwest Worshipful Masters Councils of District No. 17 conduct a Joint Mid-Year workshop. Grand District Deputy Anthony Johnson deems this as a great opportunity to recap the information that has been provided by Grand Master Hawkins, as well as, providing guidelines, processes as it pertains to District No. 17, and culminating with a training session covering various Masonic topics. The workshop for the Worshipful Masters was conducted on Saturday, December 8, 2018. During the workshop Deputy Johnson provided presentations on Masonic Protocol and Masonic Last Rites, as well as, fielded questions from those in attendance. Deputy Johnson also reiterated to the Worshipful Masters the importance of taking care of their financial obligations to the Grand Lodge and to notify their members of their financial obligations to the lodge. The Worshipful Masters in attendance were able to share information on things that could be improved throughout the District with Deputy Johnson, as well as, the things that are going well. Deputy Johnson was also able to share information that was on his trestle board for the remainder of the Masonic calendar year. At the conclusion of the workshop Deputy Johnson wished the Worshipful Masters a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year while enjoying a great opportunity to fellowship and partake in a delicious lunch before the brothers departed for their final destinations.

Contributor – RW Anthony Johnson



Keystone Lodge No. 40 Doing Their Fall Cleaning

On October 6, 2018, the brothers of Keystone Lodge No. 40 spent the Saturday doing a fall cleaning and landscaping at the historic Fleming Cemetery in



Berkley, Alabama. The project goal was to scrub, clean and beautify the graves of this African American Cemetery, making them more presentable for family visits for their loved ones, some of whom are past members of Keystone Lodge No. 40. The effort was truly beneficial for the cemetery. It's always good when lodge brothers commit their time for service to the community.



Contributor- Bro. David A. Brazelton (No. 40)

Goodway Lodge No. 222 Supports Annual Fall Festival

On October 31st, the brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222 supported the All Nations Worship Assembly with their Annual Fall Festival. The Fall Festival was a free event that was open to the community and served as a safe alternative to Halloween and the potential dangers of trick-or-treating for the members of the community and their children. The brothers of Goodway were asked to help in various

capacities including parking lot duty, the serving of popcorn and ice cones, taking out trash, monitoring children games and securing entrances and exits. The brothers had a great time interacting with members of the community, especially the children, and were proud to represent Prince Hall Masonry while doing so!



Above: WM Jarvis Noel working the popcorn machine at the Fall Festival

Left Below: Members of Goodway Lodge No. 222 with All Nation's youth Pastor Jessica Williams

Contributor – WM Jarvis L. Noel (No. 222)

Morning Star Lodge No. 50's Partnership with the Downtown Rescue Mission

On October 5, 2018, the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 partnered with the sisters of Hendley Chapter No. 855, OES and the branch managers of Wells Fargo from the Huntsville and Decatur area to serve the less fortunate of North Huntsville at the Downtown Rescue Mission. The Downtown Rescue Mission is a nonprofit organization located on Evangel Drive in Huntsville, AL and they are committed to bringing the hope of the gospel to the hurting, hungry, and homeless in the Huntsville area.

Due to the size of the partnership, Morning Star Lodge divided their support to serve the two sides of the Downtown Rescue Mission housing the men on one side and the women and children on the other. Instead of the usual day to day practice of lining up in the food line, Worshipful Master Barrington Dames asked his guests to remain



seated as the volunteers partnered to greet each guest, take their food order and serve dinner. The dinner guests for the evening ended the event by saying thank you with hugs and a standing applause. As the members prepared to leave, Patti Moody, the Resident Advisor at the Downtown Rescue Mission informed WM Dames of their Trunk or Treat event coming up and their need for candy for the children in the community. WM Dames took this information and immediately partnered with Worthy Matron Nicol Rainey of Hendley Chapter No. 855, OES to help make this event a success.



vided for the children of North Huntsville by showing up with a truck load of candy and decorations for the event. The members setup a table in the gym and decorated it with assorted Halloween decorations and treats. Because of the efforts of the Downtown Rescue Mission and volunteer help from Morning Star Lodge No. 50, Hendley Chapter No. 855, OES, the Huntsville Fire Department and Chick-fil-a; the children were able to enjoy Halloween, fill their bags with candy and play on the large inflatable slides in a safe environment. It was truly a pleasure and honor to see the children smile, laugh and enjoy the evening.

Contributor – Bro. Taurean F Dawkins (No. 50)



Morning Star Lodge No. 50 Supporting the Rose of Sharon Soup Kitchen

On November 17th, the members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 partnered with the staff of Rose of Sharon to serve meals to the less fortunate. Their mission is, "To show God's love and grace in meeting both physical and spiritual needs of the poor and homeless in the Huntsville & Madison County area". The Rose of Sharon Soup Kitchen provides a tremendous service by assisting the less fortunate adults and children by providing meals in a positive atmosphere.



Grand District Deputy, RW Anthony Johnson and PM Jerome Glover helped to entertain the guests as food was being prepared and plates served. After serving food, they rolled up their sleeves and joined Brother Greg White, the Community Service Coordinator, in his cleanup efforts in the kitchen. The staff was thankful and appreciative of the pride taken by Morning Star's members.



At the end of this event, the Rose of Sharon staff expressed their need for canned good items for their upcoming holiday party. WM Dames received this information and decided to task the members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 with this mission.

On December 14th, members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 donated fifty large, six to seven-pound canned goods to the organization contributing to their monthly efforts and upcoming Christmas Celebration for the youth.



Last, the brothers of Morning Star made sure Nancy Salmon, the Executive Assistant at Rose of Sharon knew that the lodge would be returning and would raise awareness to other organizations to support the soup kitchen and hopefully expand their efforts to feed more people. Bro. White stated, "It was a pleasure to speak, share laughs and some personal life-stories with staff and the brothers saw firsthand how impactful and important volunteering time can be in the community."

Contributor – Bro. Greg White (No. 50)

Sweet Home Lodge No. 179 Donates Holiday Cheer

On December 22, 2018, the brothers of Sweet Home Lodge No. 179 were blessed to donate baskets to several deserving families and individuals who were in need during the Christmas Holiday Season. Sweet Home was also able to donate perishable food items to the Northern Alabama Downtown Rescue Mission in the season of giving.

Contributor – WM Fremont Whitlow (No. 179)



Morning Star Lodge No. 50 Supports Socks for Seniors

On December 15th, the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 and the members of Hendley Chapter No. 855, OES met at the HarborChase facility with their children to spread some holiday cheer. The patients were overjoyed to see the volunteers and their children with the individual socks packages; however, the facility residents quickly realized they enjoyed the children and their conversation much more. The goal of this event was to provide all 70 residents at the HarborChase facility with a socks care package during their dinner time. Because of the participation from the membership and the partnership between the two organizations, they were able to provide all patients with a socks care package, as well as, the employees.

HarborChase of Huntsville, Alabama is a premier assisted living and memory care facility offering life enrichment programs for the elderly and their family members. Acts 20 verse 35 states *"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in*

this way we must help the weak and

remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" It is in this spirit that the members of Hendley Chapter No. 855, OES decided to spread some holiday cheer to lift the spirits of the HarborChase residents. Morning Star Lodge No. 50 partnered with Hendley Chapter No. 855, OES to donate socks for their "Socks for Seniors" drive and deliver them to the HarborChase Senior Living Facility located on Whitesport Circle in Huntsville, AL. It was truly a blessing to provide a moment of peace and conversation for the patients during the holiday season and the children learned the importance of giving back to the community.

Contributor – Bro. Brandon Wesley (No. 50)



Athelstine Lodge No. 71 Shows Its Holiday Spirit

On November 19, 2018, the brothers of Athelstine Lodge No. 71 met to assemble their annual Thanksgiving food baskets to present to needy families in the Athens-Limestone County Community. Each Thanksgiving food basket consisted of the normal food to be prepared during Thanksgiving: one turkey, vegetables, stuffing mix, yams, and cranberry sauce, to name a few. Past Master Johnnie L. Pryor, Bro. Mansfield Scott, and Bro. John Irving delivered the Thanksgiving baskets to the families in Athens-Limestone County. The brothers of Athelstine Lodge No. 71 give thanks to God for his allowing their lodge to be a blessing to their Community and each other, for without Him, nothing is possible; but through Him, all things are possible.

On December 8th, the brothers of Athelstine Lodge No. 71 and the sisters of Naomi Star Chapter No. 653, OES participated in the Annual St. John the Evangelist Day Services. The service was held at Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church in Athens, AL where Athelstine's own, Chaplain, John Irving delivered the message.



On December 17th, the brothers of Athelstine Lodge No. 71 along with the sisters of Naomi Chapter No. 653, Order of Eastern Star fellowshiped during their Annual Christmas Feast. There were several brothers and sisters in attendance at the Christmas Feast. In addition, the brothers of Athelstine Lodge No. 71 assembled their annual Christmas food baskets to present to needy families in the Athens-Limestone County Community. Past Master Johnnie L. Pryor, Bro. Mansfield Scott and Bro. John Irving delivered the Christmas Baskets to the families in Athens-Limestone County, Alabama. The brothers of Athelstine Lodge No. 71 give thanks to the deity for allowing their Lodge to be a blessing to our Community and to fellowship with one another during this season of giving and, most importantly, during this season in recognition of the birth of our Savior.



On December 21st, Past Master Johnnie L. Pryor and Bro. Mansfield Scott delivered annual Christmas fruit baskets to widows of their deceased brothers. The widows were very much appreciative that the lodge continue to think of them and see about them. The fruit basket during this time of year adds special warmth to their hearts. Athelstine Lodge was very busy over the holiday season with its annual Thanksgiving, Christmas and fruit baskets to their widows, all while fellowshiping with their sisters of Naomi Star Chapter No. 653, OES.

Top Left: Athelstine Lodge No. 71 Thanksgiving/Christmas baskets donations

Top Right: Athelstine Lodge No. 71 participating in St. John the Evangelist Day Service

Bottom Left: Widows Christmas fruit basket presentation

Contributor – WM Buford Thomas (No. 71)

Temple Lodge No. 98

Supports Annual Fall Festival

October is known for the changing of the seasons from summer to fall and the festivals that come with it in celebration of said season change. During this time, the Boys & Girls Club of the Sparkman Holmes housing project gear up to have their Annual Fall Festival for the kids and parents of the community.

This year Temple Lodge No. 98 helped sponsor the event. Spearheaded by the newly raised Bro. Peter Miller, director for the Boys & Girls Club, Temple Lodge No. 98 organized the food and drinks for the festival and aided as staff while the girls and boys played. There were bounce houses, ring tossing, face painting, bean bag tossing, Go Fish, basketball, a photo booth and a cake walk. The event was well attended by the community, with more than 80 parents and children that participated and had a great time.

Bro. Miller also stressed that he wanted to make sure that this event went well for the kids. It was recently in the news that the Sparkman Holmes housing buildings along with the Boys & Girls Club building will be demolished due to the poor conditions of the buildings. Bro. Miller said that his club will be relocated to the Calvary Hills Center in the Northwoods Public Housing Community. He said that he's sad it had to come to this but that's politics, he hopes that he can still connect with the youth in the new location when they move and that the new building will be even better in terms of what he can have the Club do for the community moving forward.



He also thanks his Temple Lodge brethren for coming out and supporting the efforts that his club in providing for the community, noting that a lot of the kids don't have positive male role models. We, as Masons, connecting with the children, shows them that we care.

Temple Lodge No. 98 Supports Miracle League Baseball of North Alabama

On October 15th, Temple Lodge No. 98 came out to Johnny Franklin Field at Brahan Springs Park in Huntsville, AL to participate in the fun filled pastime of baseball with the Huntsville Chapter of Miracle League Baseball of North Alabama.

Last year Temple Lodge No. 98 participated with their lodge brothers as sponsors and “buddies” to the Miracle League players and provided snacks for the kids during the game. This year the lodge brothers took on a bit more of an active role; they volunteered to be buddies for the kids and they still provided snacks, drinks and water. They also took part as base coaches and Worshipful Master Fletcher and Senior Warden Cooney provided accountments and commentary from the scores booth. Temple Lodge No. 98 had a blast helping the kids and teens hit the ball, round the bases and just have a fun time with America’s pastime.

The parents and staff of the Miracle League were happy to have the brothers of Temple Lodge No. 98 back to help and appreciated the love and attention that the lodge shared with the kids. The Miracle League is dedicated to performing charitable works, promoting the health and well-being of individuals with disabilities, and educating the public to promote a greater understanding on matters concerning disabilities and the disabled.

Contributor – Bro. Malcolm Jessup, Jr. (No. 98)



Eagle Lodge No. 97 Participates in CASA TEMP\$

On November 14, 2018, the brothers of Eagle Lodge No. 97, in New Market, AL participated in the CASA TEMP\$ (Care Assurance System for the Aging and Homebound; Taking Energy Measures Personally = \$avings) program. The lodge volunteered for the one-day event. Teams of volunteers weath-erized the homes of the elderly clients by putting plastic on windows, insu-lating pipes, caulking breaches, installing smoke detectors, replacing storm doors and performing other small repairs. This annual outreach for the city of Huntsville continues to provide many cost saving steps and helps to keep seniors warm during the winter. This was another chance for the brothers of Eagle Lodge No. 97 to give back and show their commitment of service.

Pictured Right: WM Alfred L. Mathews performing outside repair work



Eagle Lodge No. 97 Donates to Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

WM Alfred L. Mathews, Bro. Willie Lafluer, Jr. and PM Marshall Brown (Oklahoma Jurisdiction) serving meals

On November 17th, the brothers of Eagle Lodge No. 97, in New Market, AL partnered with Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church for their Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. The brothers donated ten turkeys for the event, as well as, Worshipful Master Alfred Mathews, Junior Warden Willie Lafleur Jr. and Past Master Marshall Brown (Oklahoma Jurisdiction) volunteered to participate in the



WM Alfred L. Mathews, Bro. Willie Lafluer, Jr. and PM Marshall Brown (Oklahoma Jurisdiction) serving meals



serving. This outreach for the community of New Market provided many elderly residents a meal, fellowship and encouragement, as well as, affording the brothers of Eagle Lodge No. 97 the opportunity to give back and show their commitment of service. The event was a success and the lodge received praise from the congregation of Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church and the community.

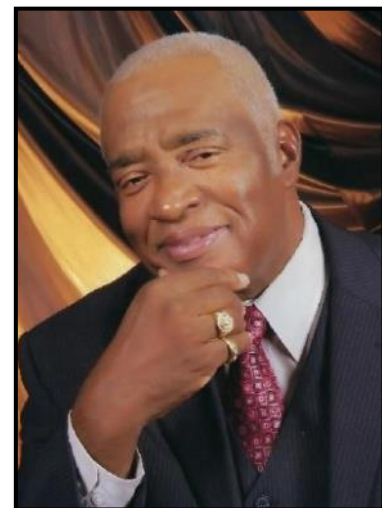
Contributor - WM Alfred L. Mathews (No. 97)

Obituaries

Brothers Called Home by the Grand Architect

On Saturday morning, October 6, 2018, the Lord called Mr. Godfrey Johnson home to rest. Bro. Johnson was the oldest of four children born in Washington, District of Columbia, to the late Florence Johnson and Robert Copeland. He was reared by his grandparents, the late Harry and Inez Johnson, in Birmingham, Alabama.

As a result of Christian nurturing from his grandparents, Bro. Johnson confessed Christ as his Lord and Savior at an early age and joined Williams Chapel C.M.E. Church. There, he remained an active member until his death. During childhood, he faithfully participated in the choir and played the piano. Later, he proudly served in numerous capacities: Trustee, Steward, Usher, Head of the kitchen committee, and he helped to organize many church events and programs. Williams Chapel was close to his heart, and he was truly a servant!



R.W. Godfrey W. Johnson

He was educated in the Birmingham School System and graduated from Hayes High School. Upon graduation, he continued his education at Bishop College in Dallas, Texas. He became a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated. It was there where his career in the culinary industry began. After moving back to Birmingham, to care for his grandfather, Bro. Johnson continued to perfect his niche in culinary arts and management. His career endeavors included: general manager, territorial manager, and owner of several Jack's restaurants. During this time, he met and married "the apple of his eye", Valerie Renay Fitts. Together, they started Johnson Family Catering. The business was blessed to receive catering contracts for large-scale events, including Luther Vandross, the O' Jays, Frankie Beverly and Maze, MC Hammer and many other well known artists. Johnson Family Catering operated and provided food service at Lawson State Community College for several years. In addition, he spent several years managing the cafeteria at Jefferson County Board of Education. He was presently employed by the Vestavia City School District as the Child and Nutrition Manager at Cahaba Heights Elementary in Vestavia, Alabama. He really loved those children and considered them his own! His plans were to retire in May 2019.

Bro. Johnson led a distinguished life and was involved in many organizations and spearheaded unnumbered community initiatives. He was always willing to lend a helping hand, even on days when he was ill, Bro. Johnson served Prince Hall Masonry in the following capacities: Grand Tyler and Assistant Convention Coordinator of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama, Worshipful Master of Archive Lodge No. 75, King of Hurst Chapter No. 58 Holy Royal Arch Masons, Principal Conductor of the Works of J.W. Hudson Council No. 10, Generalissimo of Persia Commandery No. 2, 2nd Lieutenant of Red Cross Consistory No. 2A, Past Potentate of Khedive Temple No. 16 and 33rd degree mason of the United Supreme Council of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Prince Hall Affiliation, Southern Jurisdiction, Inc.

Article Submission Guidelines

The Cornerstone Message accepts submissions of articles, flyers, and information of events of general interest 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 (hjeromeglover@yahoo.com). Please include a point of contact and telephone number with each article submission. 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 sub-missions for the next issue of *The Cornerstone Message* is 10 April 2019.** These articles should include events from **January 2019—March 2019**. Articles are to be submitted with a minimum of one paragraph written in third person 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



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