



THE CORNERSTONE

M E S S A G E

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

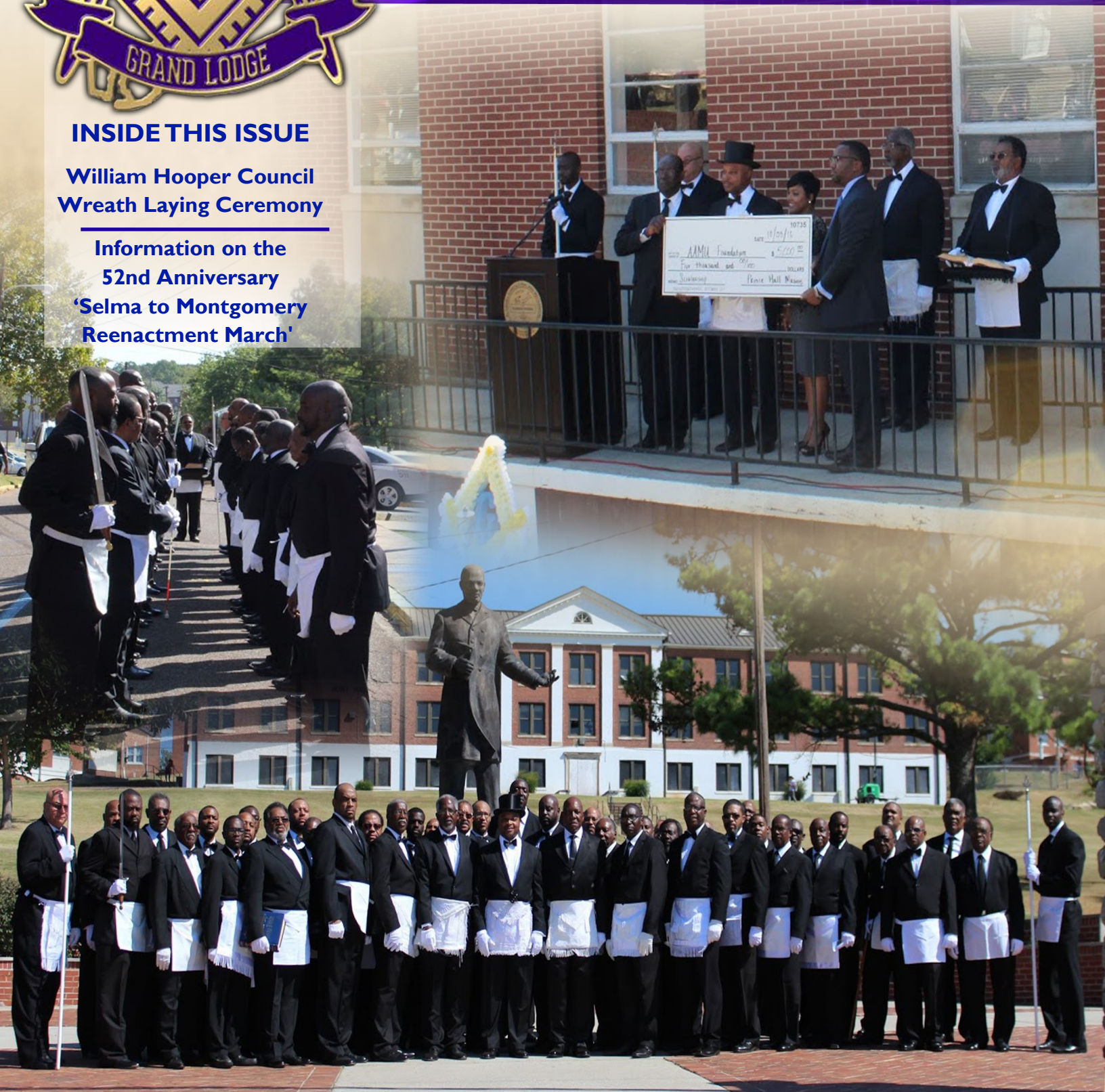
VOLUME V, ISSUE I

JANUARY 2017

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**William Hooper Council
Wreath Laying Ceremony**

**Information on the
52nd Anniversary
'Selma to Montgomery
Reenactment March'**



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

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THE GRAND MASTER'S TRESTLE BOARD



*O taste and see that the Lord is good:
blessed is the man that trusteth in him.
Psalms 34:8*

I am asking all Brothers and Sisters to please participate in this event. Bring as many people as you can to Selma, Alabama. If you cannot walk across the bridge, do not be deterred, just come and fellowship with all the Brothers and Sisters from far and near. If there was ever a time we have needed to show our strength in numbers and show our support for the Voting Rights Act, the time is NOW! I cannot wait to see you there.

On the first Saturday in March we will begin our Regional Meetings throughout the State of Alabama. I eagerly anticipate this time of year. I enjoy traveling throughout the various areas and having an opportunity to meet and greet brothers who are eager to do what they can to help better this Grand Lodge. All Masters, Wardens and Brothers are to be present at the Regional Meetings.

It is no secret that we are currently living in a country divided. Due to the recent election there has been an upswing in protests and demonstrations, some non-violent and some violent. I say to you, do not be dismayed. God is still in control. Isaiah Chapter 9, Verse 6 reads, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." We serve a God who sits on a throne much higher than any world leader. We must continue to lean and depend on Him.

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

God Almighty serve this country safely, continues to successfully and gracefully. He has allowed us to see another year. I wish a happy and prosperous new year to all! May God continue to bless each of you throughout the year. Recently the 44th President of the United States, the Honorable Barack Obama's, tenure as Commander-in-Chief of this great country ended. I am thankful that President was able to

serve this country safely, successfully and gracefully. He has allowed us to see another year. I wish a happy and prosperous new year to all! May God continue to bless each of you throughout the year. Recently the 44th President of the United States, the Honorable Barack Obama's, tenure as Commander-in-Chief of this great country ended. I am thankful that President was able to

On Sunday, March 5, 2017, we will be, once again, participating in the Selma March in commemoration of "Bloody Sunday".

Fraternally,

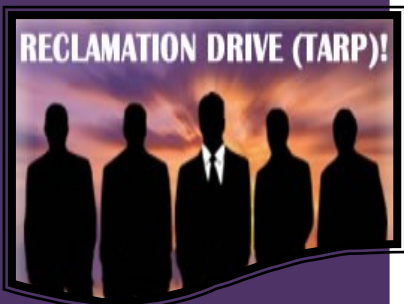
Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.

Most Worshipful Grand Master



PM Herman "Jerome" Glover (50)
Publication Editor

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



Message from the Editor

To all readers and supporters of this Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama titled *The Cornerstone Message*, Greetings: I would like to take this time to thank all of the contributors to this edition of *The Cornerstone Message*. I continue to commend you on your good works and taking advantage of utilizing this instrument to display your good works throughout this great jurisdiction of Alabama. This jurisdiction continues to accomplish great things and you will find some of them captured within this edition of *The Cornerstone Message*.

I do ask you to be mindful of the Article Submission Guidelines on the last page of this newsletter. No more than two articles per lodge can be submitted for each edition of the newsletter. Individual pictures should be of good quality in JPEG and not as a collage. Pictures should also capture actions of the event showing the readers your event and not just a group picture of the brothers in the lodge. The write up should be at least one paragraph telling the story of your article to the readers. *The Cornerstone Message* isn't Facebook or Instagram where you post several pictures and a few sentences. Take time to or-

ganize and tell your good works to the readers as best you can. Finally, please include a point of contact and a telephone number with your article submissions.

As always, I want to encourage all subordinate lodges to continue to support *The Cornerstone Message* and show everyone throughout the jurisdiction what your lodges are doing in your respective areas 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
- \$10.00 taxes
- \$25.00 registration
- \$50.00 assessment (Have two years to pay the remaining \$150.00)
- \$105.00 Total

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- \$20.00 reinstatement fee
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- \$25.00 registration
- \$50.00 assessment (Have two years to pay the remaining \$200.00)
- \$105.00 Total

TARP serves a two-fold purpose: (1.) It gives suspended Brothers a more affordable means of reinstating and (2.) It gives dying lodges a final opportunity to salvage their existence by increasing their numbers before being forced to close or merge. Our Grand Master has extended a challenge for the members of this jurisdiction to go out and reclaim our lost Brothers. TARP will be in effect through July 31, 2017.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The

One Hundred Forty-Seventh Annual Communication

of the

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

Monday, July 17, 2017 - Wednesday, July 19, 2017

**THE BATTLE HOUSE RENAISSANCE
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**WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS, ASK FOR THE
PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE ROOM BLOCK to get our rate.
The cutoff date for the \$109.00+applicable tax per night rate is
June 30, 2017. So make your reservations now!**

For Reservations Call 800.922.3298 • 251.438.4000

ALABAMA PRINCE HALL MASONS



AMERICANISM FOOTBALL CLASSIC WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2017

MILES

VS

MOREHOUSE

FRIDAY, SEPT 22

GOLF TOURNAMENT

GOLF TOURNAMENT LUNCHEON

WEEKEND KICK-OFF JAM

SATURDAY, SEPT 23

GAMEDAY TAILGATE
BBQ COOK-OFF & WILD GAME TASTING
MILES COLLEGE CAMPUS
FAIRFIELD, ALABAMA

**MILES COLLEGE GOLDEN BEARS
VS. MOREHOUSE MAROON TIGERS**
ALBERT J. SLOAN-ALUMNI STADIUM
FAIRFIELD, ALABAMA



FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT
ADDRESS: 4980 ACADEMY CT, BESSEMER, AL 35022
PHONE: 205.277.1700

ROOM RATE \$87.50^{PN}

SUNDAY, SEPT 24

**PRINCE HALL AMERICANISM DAY
CHURCH SERVICE**

A Message from the Deputy Grand Master

Brothers, I would like to give you some wholesome words of encouragement. You must have a positive outlook in each and everything that you do. Nobody would argue that electricity exists. You can't touch, smell, hear, or see it, but its effects are evident everywhere you look. Its power is evident everywhere you look. In the same way, your thoughts are energy. Your thoughts drive your life just as electricity drives a motor. That is the power there is in having a positive mental attitude.

If we put action with our positive mental attitude, then the sky is the limit in what we can get accomplished for the Most Worshipful Prince Grand Lodge of Alabama. If we can dream it, believe it, then we can achieve it. Yes, I am not the first one to say this, and I bet I won't be the last either. You know why? Because it is true. It's simple, but true. There is power in thoughts, both in negative and in positive thinking. Choose positivity and you will enjoy positive energy and positive results. A poem by an unknown author states the following about having a positive mental attitude:

*"If you think you are beaten you are;
If you think you dare not, you don't;
If you want to win but think you can't;
It's almost a cinch you won't.*

*If you think you'll lose you've lost;
For out of the world we find
Success begins with a fellow's will;
It's all in a state of mind.*

*Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger and faster man,
But sooner or later the man who wins
Is the man who thinks he can."*



As Masons, we must keep our faith firm in God and always trust in His word. Proverbs 16:3 tells us to, "Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established." We can then look further into Psalms 37:4-5 which says, "delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." By these words, we can be assured that if we keep our trust in God, he will truly bring all things to pass in His due time. Be encouraged Grand Lodge of Alabama.

Contributor — RW Robert W. Glenn

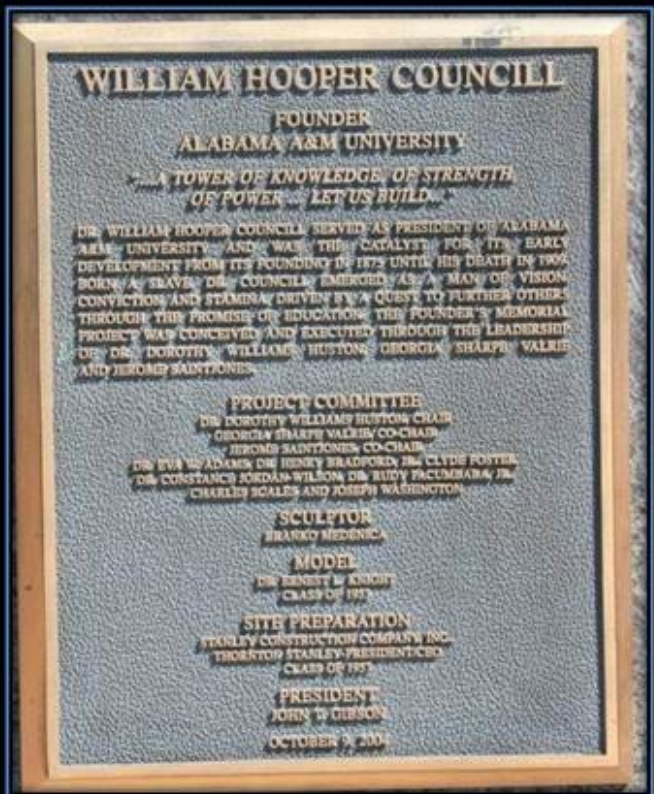
William Hooper Council

Wreath Laying Ceremony

On Wednesday, October 5, 2016, the brothers of District No. 17 converged on the campus of Alabama A&M University to conduct a Wreath Laying Ceremony for Past Grand Junior Warden and Founder of Alabama A&M University, William Hooper Council. Grand Master Hawkins deemed October 5, 2016 as a day in which Prince Hall Masons in the Jurisdiction of Alabama would make their presence known on the campus. In an effort of accomplishing this goal 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, Jr. for deserving students in the amount of \$5,000. Dr. Hugine then followed the presentation with warm words of gratitude and as a Prince Hall Mason himself it made him proud to be a member of this organization and to be associated with the great works that we do. Also during the day lodges from District No. 17 sponsored a Voter Registration drive to get as many students as possible registered in preparation for the upcoming election. Grand Master Hawkins commended Grand District Deputy Johnson and the brothers of District No. 17 for supporting this event and assisting in bringing his vision for this endeavor to fruition.

Contributor – RW Anthony J. Johnson







Update on Temple Renovation



The Celebrated Colored Masonic Temple Building with Proposed Parking Deck Addition

LEGENDARY PRESENCE FASHIONED ONLY BY A LEGACY OF COMMUNITY, SERVICE & CHARITY

◆ Now Accepting New Occupancy Pre-Leasing ◆



SAMPLE TYPICAL NEW FLOOR PLAN

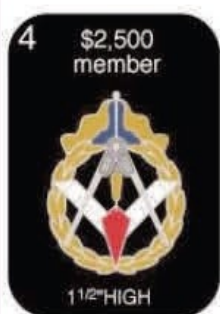
- ◆ Large enough to accommodate the needs for 10 or more staffers
- ◆ Flexible office arrangements available to satisfy the small professional entrepreneur
- ◆ All new infrastructure—Plumbing; Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning; Lighting; Power; Communications; Wi-Fi connections; Video teleconferencing
- ◆ Access to shared conference rooms
- ◆ Centralized Downtown Location
- ◆ Professional Office environment having competitive square foot costs
- ◆ Historical setting updated with current technologies
- ◆ ADA— Compliant
- ◆ Non-Profit Organizations invited
- ◆ We will work with you to customize to your organization's specifications
- ◆ Convenient location to Local, State & Federal Court Houses

Support the Temple Renovation

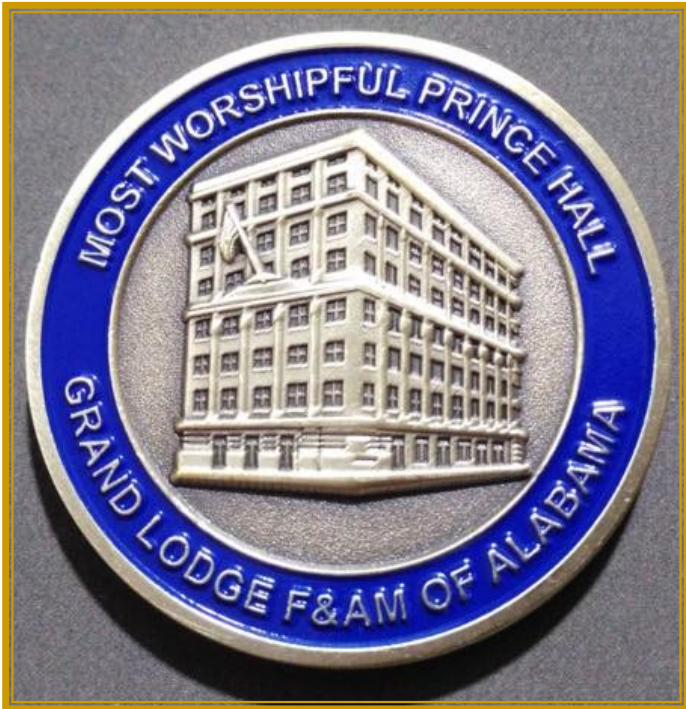
Most

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!



Reserve Your Place in History



Front



Back

The Master's Closet recently unveiled the Temple Renovation 2016 Challenge Coin Project. The project introduced a challenge coin to the community with a depiction of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall F&AM Grand Lodge of Alabama with a full color Masonic and Order of the Eastern Star Emblem. Proceeds from the sales of the coins will go to help renovate the Grand Lodge to its original form of the early 1900's.

Go to: www.TheMastersClosetGifts.com

These Temple Renovation coins are limited editions; Get Yours Today!

From Whence We've Come...

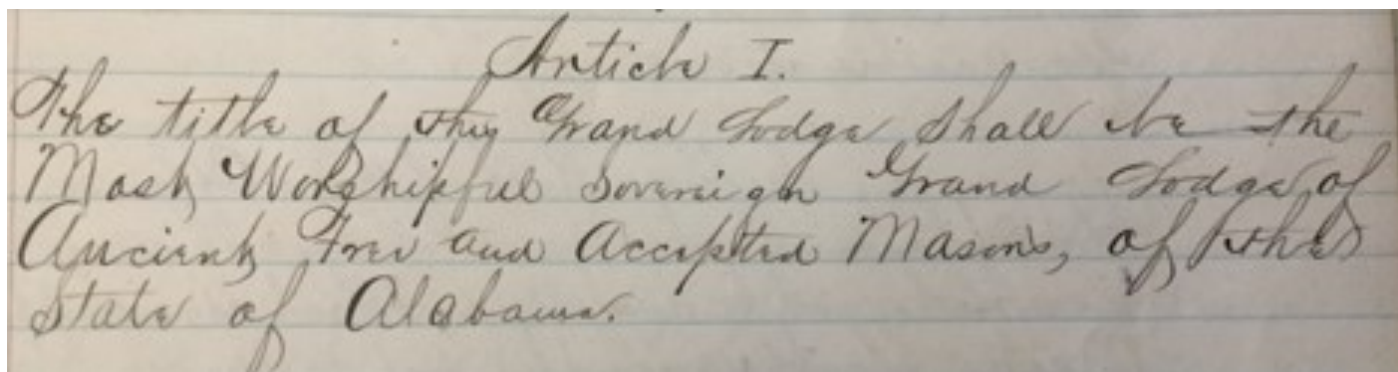
What's with the Letters: Free & Accepted Masons vs. Ancient Free & Accepted Masons

The framework of the conversation that typically graces Prince Hall Masons when speaking with clandestine groups but also, other Prince Hall Masons or even Mainstream Masons centers around the often misrepresented phrases, “3-letter” and 4-letter.

As historians, we enjoy delving into the historical and application of occurrences in Freemasonry. As a result, I've been asked the question, “When and why did the Grand Lodge (M.:W.: Grand Lodge F&AM of Alabama) change its name from A.F.&A.M to F&AM?” To affectively answer the question, you would have to look to the proceedings for the authentic answer why our Grand Lodge's name was changed, as well as other Prince Hall Grand Lodges.

In 1870, the Grand Lodge, was titled, The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons for the State of Alabama. [*Background*: Four years later, given the turmoil and exodus and formation of numerous Independent Grand Lodges in opposition to the National Grand Lodge (National Compact)] another Grand Lodge was birthed in 1874, entitled, The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Ancient York Masons for the State of Alabama and its Jurisdiction (Alabama Compact Grand Lodge).

During the course of four years of the life of the Alabama Compact Grand Lodge, letters of correspondence and discussion were had both formally and informally by both Grand Lodge's leadership. Eventually, in 1878, the two Grand Lodges would merge/consolidate to become what was known as, The M.:W.: Sovereign Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama.



Some years later, in 1897, during the Administration of M.:W.: Grand Master Reuben R. Mims, the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge began to show an altered title of M.:W.: Grand Lodge, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Alabama; meanwhile, there is no written documentation that supports the change in the Grand Lodge moniker.

¹ Proceedings of *The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons for the State of Alabama*, Constitution, Article I, Style & Title (January 25, 1871): 1870, p. 6.

² Cashins, Herschel V. [*Handwritten Grand Lodge Consolidation Minute Book and*] *Proceedings of the M.:W.: Sovereign Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama*, Constitution [Part First], Article I (July 21, 1879): 1879, p. 11.

After the turn of the century and death of Grand Master Mims, change was ushered in under the leadership of M.:W.: Grand Master Henry C. Binford. Grand Master Binford was often seen attempting to modernize the Grand Lodge. As a act of formalizing the functions of the Grand Lodge, the incorporation of the Grand Lodge marked a change in the formal name, with the new title of M.:W.: Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama, which was filed in the Jefferson County Probate Court, on August 6, 1910.

In reference to the Grand Lodge's (and sister Prince Hall Grand Lodges) desire to change its modern name; the overarching conversation and action took place during the 1950 Grand Lodge Session. The issue caught traction following a meeting of the Grand Masters Conference (now Prince Hall Conference of Grand Masters) in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in 1949.

In the following year, in 1950, Grand Master Chas. V. Hendley, Esq. recommended its passage of the following recommendation, in his Address before the Grand Lodge:

6. I recommend the passing of a Resolution in compliance with the request of the Grand Masters' Conference in its fight against Clandestine Masonry, changing the name of our Grand Lodge to Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama.

The measure was placed in resolution form and passed unanimously by the credentialed members of the Grand Lodge. The actual language follows:

In following the rules of the Constitution, the passage of the proposed resolution, in the form of a Constitutional Amendment was not final, it required passage the following year, as well. As such, the Committee on Jurisprudence, chaired by Deputy Grand Master, R.:W.: H. Councill Trenholm who also served as President of Alabama State University, passed a final resolution that was accepted and codified for final passage on July 25, 1951.

Whereas, there is existing throughout the country much confusion as to properly identifying Clandestine Masons and Legitimate Masons when visiting various Jurisdictions, and

Whereas, the Grand Masters' Conference in its fight against Clandestine Masonry, feeling that much good could be done by having our regular legitimate Colored Masonic Grand Lodges to carry the name "Prince Hall", have requested all Grand Lodges to so amend their charters as to carry the name of Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, and

Whereas, our original name derived its authority from the Charter granted Prince Hall by the Free and Accepted Masonic Grand Lodge of England, and

Whereas, changing our corporation name would not entail under hardship or expense and may be of benefit in the fight of legitimate Colored Masonry against Clandestine Masonry,

NOW THEREFORE, Be It Enacted by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama, Prince Hall Affiliation in regular session assembled at Gadsden, Ala

bama, July 25-27, 1950, that Article 1, Section 1, of the Grand Lodge Constitution to be found on Page 4 of Volume 2 of our Book of Constitutions, be amended to read as follows:

Section 1. "The style and title of this Grand Lodge shall be the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama."

1. "The Grand Lodge shall have a Corporate Seal which shall consist of two concentric circles between which shall be the name and title of the Grand Lodge, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama; in the center shall be the Masonic emblems of the all-seeing eye and the square and compass and surrounding these emblems shall be the dates of organization, consolidation and incorporation of the Grand Lodge; and such Seal is hereby adopted as the corporate Seal of the Grand Lodge and shall be affixed to all instruments issued by and under its authority calling for the use of a Seal."

P. B. Swoope No. 46
Hezekiah Reed No. 121
Wm. Thornton No. 752
Henry Cillie No. 762

³ Probate Court of Jefferson County – Alabama Probate Records for the Incorporation of Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama, August 6, 1910: page 87 – 59.

⁴ Martin, W.M. *Proceedings of the M.:W.: Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama, Prince Hall Affiliation*: 1950, p. 44.

The proper paperwork was later filed with the Probate Courts for Jefferson County, Alabama. All appropriate fees were paid, and on October 12, 1951, the official name change occurred legally.

So, the underlying conversation of the use of AF&AM and F&AM is truly moot because of the ancient relationships with the Ancients and Modern Grand Lodges in England, has long since been over. Since those two GL systems effectively consolidated to form the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), the use of those terms, in terms of lineage, within present times is moot.

All Regular Prince Hall Grand Lodges, save the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, AF&AM, of Liberia use the terminology Free & Accepted Masons. Additionally, the Regular Mainstream Grand Lodges also use AFM, AF&AM and also F&AM.

The backdrop of the change rationale at the 1949 Grand Master's Conference meeting was a rampant utilization of AF&AM by John G. Jones (JGJ)/General Grand Masonic Congress organizations. These institutions utilized the letters "AF&AM" as their duplicitous backstory to fool an unsuspecting public and uninitiated profanes.

The reality of the utilization of Ancient and/or Free & Accepted Mason does not validate the Regularity of a Grand Lodge, what it does is merely give a name. Lastly, the true test for a Grand Lodge's Regularity should be placed in it's lineage, formation and adherence to the stand modes of not straying from the Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry.

Contributor — RW L. Ken Collins, II

Grand Lodge Historian





52nd Anniversary Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March *'Bloody Sunday'*

**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 5, 2017

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

Message from the Grand Medical Registrar

Greetings:

It is a blessing to see another year. I hope that everyone has brought the new year in well. I am going to discuss a topic about a little rash that can be quite painful. This rash is known as shingles or herpes zoster. Shingles is characterized by a painful rash on the skin with localizing blisters. The rash can occur on the face or body typically on one side. Most often, the rash occurs on the back or chest. Tingling or local pain can occur in the area that is about to be affected several days before presentation of the rash. There are few other symptoms most times associated with the rash. Shingles can typically take several weeks to heal. One complication is the development of nerve pain that can be quite excruciating. The pain can last up to one to two months and sometimes even longer. The development of shingles involving the eye as well as on the tip of the nose can lead to visual loss without proper management.

Shingles is a condition that is the result of acquiring chicken pox. The same virus that causes chicken pox also causes shingles. Once a person has chicken pox and recovers, the virus may remain inactive in nerve cells. As one grows older, the virus can reactivate secondary being caused by a decreased immune system, stress, illnesses and is common with people over the age of 50. The virus travels along the nerves to the level of the skin which produces blisters. Following up with your physician is essential because early treatment may be beneficial in preventing complications.

You cannot catch shingles from another person. You can contract chickenpox, however, if you've never had it or the vaccination for chickenpox. The virus basically lives in the blisters and remain active until the blisters heal. I tell patients that have shingles to avoid anyone that is younger than 12 months, or anyone who has not had chickenpox. It is also wise to avoid pregnant women and very sick people. People who've had the chickenpox vaccine are less likely to contract chickenpox and develop shingles later in life.

Your physician can tell the majority of the time if you have shingles based on symptoms and presentation of rash. The eye is involved about 10% of most cases. You may need to see an eye specialist if the eye is involved as they can decide which medication is appropriate for you. Once again the medication has more benefit if started within the first 3 days. Your physician also has access to several different medications that can help with the pain from this condition.

There is a vaccine available for shingles recommended for people age 60 and older. The vaccine has been shown to reduce the risk of developing shingles and pain from shingles significantly. Your physician or pharmacy may be able to administer the vaccine to you. Always confirm with your physician if you are a good candidate for the vaccination.

Remember, talk to your physician about the risk of developing shingles and possible benefits of getting vaccination for shingles.

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

Achievements

Brother Demetrius Hightower Recognized as Officer of the Month

Detective Demetrius Hightower, a member of George W. Braxdall No. 28, was selected as The “Officer of the Month” for the month of December. Det. Hightower has displayed a standard of excellence and dedication to duty that deserved recognition and acclaim. Det. Hightower has been an invaluable asset to the Property Crimes Unit with his positive attitude, work ethic and his desire to serve the community on his own time. During the month of November, Det. Hightower was instrumental in solving two major crimes that were perplexing the Department and causing uneasiness in the city. Det. Hightower solved one of these crimes while actually being “off duty,” a point that Chief Allen praised and made special mention of. Chief Allen shares “that when talking about our officers needing to be self-motivated, dedicated servants of our community, on and off duty, Det. Hightower is setting the example for us all.”

Even more impressive is the fact that with his busy and very demanding work schedule, Det. Hightower still manages to volunteer his time to serve the community. For his efforts, Det. Hightower received the 2016 Humanitarian of the Year Award from the President of the Decatur/Morgan County Branch of the NAACP, 'Rodney Gordon'. The award was received because the community felt that Det. Hightower went above and beyond the call of duty. Over the last four years, Det. Hightower has taken a leadership role in "Operation Thank You" held at Ingalls Harbor in Decatur where they have fed thousands of people during the holidays. Det. Hightower also distributes more than 100 bicycles to children throughout Decatur. Det. Hightower organized these community events without being asked to do so, wanted no recognition for his good works and didn't want anything in return but smiling faces. The Officer of the Month and 2016 Humanitarian of the Year Award were presented along with two more awards, 'Appearance Award' and 'Chiefs Accommodation Award', both from the Decatur Police Department.



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:

Right Worshipful Kevin L. Howard

Kevin L. Howard was born on January 14, 1974 in Waynesboro, MS. He is the son of the late Mr. Henry Howard, Jr. and Mrs. Sadie Howard of Gilberttown, AL. Kevin has an older sister, Tanya F. Howard, who resides in Mobile, AL. He married to his lovely wife, Arquetta S. Howard, on July 4, 2001. They have two children, Charsade Denise Howard (age 13) and Charlea S. Howard (age 7).

Brother Howard has a firm faith in God and is very faithful to his church. He is a member of the Gin Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Gilberttown, AL, under the leadership of Rev. John A. Haley, Jr. He was ordained as a deacon on May 5, 1996. Because he is a member of a small church, Brother Howard serves in various capacities, from being a member of the choir to serving as President of the Usherboard. Brother Howard also serves as President of the Alabama Line Usher's Union. He is also a member of the WCC Mass Choir.

Education is something to be valued and should not be taken lightly. Brother Howard graduated from Southern Choctaw High School, in Silas, AL, in May of 1992. He graduated number seven in his class with an Advanced Bio-Prep Diploma. He then graduated from the University of West Alabama in May of 1999 with a Bachelor's of Science (BS) in Mathematics Education; December of 2004 with a Master's of Education (M.Ed.) in Educational Administration; and May of 2013 with an Educational Specialist Degree (Ed.S.) in Instructional Leadership. Brother Howard is currently enrolled in Capella University, pursuing an Educational Doctorate (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership and Management.

Brother Howard is employed as an educator in Choctaw County. He served as a math teacher at Choctaw County High School in Butler, AL from August of 1999 until May of 2006. He then served as Principal of Choctaw County High School from July of 2006 until February of 2013. Brother Howard is currently serving as Human Resource Director for the Choctaw County School System in Butler, AL.



Freemasonry plays a very important part in Brother Howard's life. He joined Queen Victoria Lodge No. 216, in June of 1992, under the leadership of the late Past Master Hayward Turner, Sr. He then served as Worshipful Master from May of 1999 until June of 2014. Brother Howard joined McDonald Chapter No. 76, Holy Royal Arch Masons, in January of 1993, under the leadership of Past High Priest Johnny Dixon, Jr. He then served as Excellent High Priest from January of 1999 until June of 2013. Brother Howard joined Ezell-Towner Commandery No. 10, Knights Templar, on December 31, 1996, under the leadership of the late Past Eminent Commander Hayward Turner, Sr. He has served as Recorder from 2001 to the present. He is also a member of Emmanuel Council No. 7, Royal & Select Masters, and currently serves as the Principal Conductor of the Works. Brother Howard then joined Abraham Consistory No. 257, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, under the leadership of Past Commander-in-Chief Johnny Dixon, Jr. Brother Howard also serves faithfully in the affiliate organizations. He joined Henrietta Chapter No. 151, Order of Eastern Star, in June of 1993, under the leadership of Past Matron Normie R. Tartt and the late Past Patron Hayward Turner, Sr. He has served as Worthy Patron from July of 2002 until the present. He joined Towner-Dixon Court No. 96, Heroines of Jericho, in December of 1997, under the leadership of Most Ancient Matron Alice R. Towner and the late Past Worthy Joshua A. J. Towner. He has served as Worthy Joshua from July of 1999 to the present. Brother Howard then joined Zion Starlight Court No. 17A, Order of Cyrene Crusaders, in December of 1997. Brother Howard also serves as Secretary of the District No. 2 Master's Council. Currently, Kevin L. Howard proudly serves under the leadership of the Honorable Corey D. Hawkins Sr., Most Worshipful Grand Master, as the Grand Recording Secretary.

The life of Kevin L. Howard is all about service. It does not matter what positions he may hold, or what degrees he may possess; he just wants to be able to help and serve his fellow man. Most people fight and scheme to get positions, but he can proudly say that he has never even asked for a position. His joy comes from not being at the head or in the spotlight, but from being a foot soldier, helping others to shine.



On Vision & Leadership

*"Where there is no **vision** the people perish."*

— Proverbs 29:1

"Big thinking precedes great achievement."

— Wilferd Peterson

*"The future belongs to those who **see** possibilities before they become obvious."*

— John Scully

*"**Vision** is the art of seeing the invisible."*

— Jonathan Swift

*"All of the great **leaders** have had one characteristic in common: it was the willingness to confront unequivocally the major anxiety of their people in their time. This, and not much else, is the essence of **leadership**."*

— John Kenneth Galbraith

*"The task of **leadership** is not to put greatness into humanity, but to elicit it, for the greatness is already there."*

— John Buchan

*"You do not **lead** by hitting people over the head, that's assault, not **leadership**."*

— Dwight D. Eisenhower

*"Great **leaders** are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument, debate, and doubt to offer a solution everybody can understand."*

— General Colin Powell

*"The first responsibility of a **leader** is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between, the **leader** is a servant."*

—Max DePree

REGION 1

News and Events from Region 1

St. John Lodge No. 2 Distributes Thanksgiving Meals

Continuing along with our yearly community service, the Brothers of St. John Lodge No. 2 took to the streets for Thanksgiving this year. Providing twenty plus full-meal Thanksgiving baskets to the less fortunate on November 22, 2016, gave the families ample time to prepare the meals just the way they wanted. Bro. Chase

Rankin hand delivered baskets to several families.



On Thanksgiving morning, the brethren of St. John Lodge No. 2 also made their way down to the Salvation Army to serve meals to the homeless and less fortunate. The lodge looks forward to doing more and more for years to come.

St. John Lodge No. 2's Bicycle Donation

On December 21, 2016, the brethren of St. John Lodge No. 2 delivered dozens of bicycles to be given out as Christmas presents to those children and families that needed a little holiday surprise. Over the past three years, the lodge has provided several bikes to various organizations hoping to spread the holiday spirit. The goal is to put a smile on a child's face while promoting good health, exercise, and outdoor play.



Contributor – PM Terrence Anderson (No. 2)

REGION 2

News and Events from Region 2

District No. 2 Recognizes Bro. James I. Sneed

On October 26, 2016, members from District No. 2 formally recognized Bro. James I. Sneed. Brother Sneed is a 2016 Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama Hall of Fame Inductee. He is very active in the Masonic organization and serves in the following capacities: Worshipful Master of Pride of Shiloh Lodge No. 59, F& AM of Alabama; Honorary Past Grand District Deputy for District No. 2; member of McDonald Chapter No. 76, Holy Royal Arch Masons, Jurisdiction of Alabama; member of Emmanuel Council No. 7, Royal & Select Masters, Jurisdiction of Alabama; Honorary Past Grand Thrice Illustrious Master; member of Ezell-Towner Commandery No. 10, Knights Templar; Honorary Past Right Eminent Grand Commander of Hendley Mack Grand Commandery, Knights Templar; Worthy Patron of Elbetha Chapter No. 817; District Patron of District No. 17 Matron's & Patron's Council; Worthy Joshua of Greater Pride Court No. 26, Heroines of Jericho; Royal Advisor of Zion-Starlight Court No. 17A, Order of Cyrene Crusaders; and member of Abraham Consistory No. 257 (33°). Bro. Sneed has over 70 years of dedicated service in freemasonry.

Contributor – R. W. Kevin L. Howard



{Front L – R} Bro. Charlie J. Square, Worshipful Master; Bro. Fernando Raby; R.W. Kevin L. Howard, Grand Recording Secretary; R.W. Robert W. Glenn, Deputy Grand Master; Bro. James I. Sneed, Worshipful Master & Hall of Fame Inductee; R.W. Johnny Isaac, Chief of Security/Special Deputy; Bro. William Norwood; Bro. Governor Tensley; & Bro. Christin Johnson {Back L-R} Bro. Allen Williams; Bro. Marcus Powell; Bro. Jamie Todd; Bro. Lurie Walton, Past Master & Assistant Grand District Deputy; Bro. Terry Owens; Bro. David Walter; Bro. Herschel Jones; Bro. Cad Ford, Worshipful Master; Bro. Larry Coleman; Bro. Alexander Bates; Bro. Jose Stallworth. Not Pictured: Bro. Michael T. Moss, Worshipful Master.

REGION 3

News and Events from Region 3

District No. 6 Participates In Community Projects

On October 15, 2016, brothers and sisters of District Six, participated for the first time ever in the Troy University homecoming parade in Troy, Alabama. The planning and organizing for District Six to be an active participant in the parade was done by WM Raymond Franklin and Sec. James Foster of Alpine Lodge No. 91. The brothers and sisters were led in the parade processional by the Grand District Deputy of District Six, R.W. Billy Morris.

On October 30, 2016, District Six also participated in the Peanut Festival Parade in Brundidge, AL. The planning and organizing for District Six to be an active participant in the parade was done by WM Anthony Foster, Anchor Lodge No. 86. The brothers and sisters were led in the parade processional by the Grand District Deputy of District Six, R.W. Billy Morris.

On December 16, 2016, members of District Six went to the Pike County Child Advocacy Group Center in Ansley, AL to help with their Christmas Community Project. In a season of giving back to the well deserving, underprivileged families within the community, District Six assisted so the children in the community could celebrate Christmas. The planning and organizing for this project were led by brothers of Alpine Lodge No. 91 of Ansley, (Troy), AL.

Contributor – Bro. James Foster (No. 91)

{Top — WM Raymond Franklin, RW Billy Morris, Bro. James Foster, Bro. Derrick Pelton with Mrs. Teague of The Advocacy Group seated.

Middle and Bottom — Members of District Six Prince Hall Mason and Order of Eastern Stars of Alabama, participating in the Troy University Homecoming Parade



REGION 4

News and Events from Region 4

Milton W. Howze Lodge No. 408 Community Service Projects

Milton W. Howze Lodge No. 408 participated in a number of charitable events this past fall. Along with continued fundraising for scholarships awarded to deserving college bound students, a bottled water drive for the people of Flint, Michigan, and donations to local daycares, the brethren have found pleasure in lending a helping hand with other groups in the community. In the month of October, Milton W. Howze held a Baby Back Rib Sale to raise funds for community service projects. The lodge also participated in the Annual Sisters Exemplifying Excellence Cancer Walk, an event designed to raise cancer awareness. In the month of November, the brethren joined several other organizations in a cleanup of Baptist Hill Cemetery, Auburn's first separate black community cemetery. The Lodge also participated in the Tallassee Christmas Parade, attended the 3rd Annual Community Comedy Roast of Rev. Dr. Clifford E. Jones, and hosted a field trip for students from Journey Early Learning Academy.

Contributor – Bro. Steve Blackmon (No. 408)



Top Right — Cleanup of Baptist Hill Cemetery

Bottom Left — Senior Warden Mario Mitchell hosting students of Journey Early Learning Academy

Bottom Right — (Pictured Left to Right) Senior Warden Mario Mitchell, Grand Secretary George D. Echols, Rev. Dr. Clifford E. Jones, Bro. Alvin Howard, Grand Trustee Morris E. Tooles, Bro. Ameer Grimes at Community Comedy Roast

South Griffin Lodge No. 697 Participates in Christmas Radiothon

On December 18, 2016, South Griffin Lodge No. 697 partnered with Al Shariff Temple No. 252 at Davis Broadcasting in Columbus, GA to raise money for children in need during Christmas. This was a big event in the Tri-Cities area which is composed of Phenix City, AL, Columbus, GA, and Fort Benning GA. The radiothon was successful as the brethren received telephone calls from listeners who pledged donations to the radio station for their Needy Children Christmas Fund. The radiothon raised enough funds to purchase bicycles and toys for the children located in the Tri-Cities Area.



Pictured are WM Dixon, Bro. Harrell, Bro. Miles, Bro. Mitchell, Bro. Felton, Bro. Browning, Bro. Henry, Bro. Morgan, PM. Housey, Bro. Gabe, Bro. Smith and State Representative of Georgia Calvin Smyre

South Griffin Lodge No. 697 Hosts Annual Christmas Coat Drive

On December 14, 2016, South Griffin Lodge No. 697 held their Annual Christmas Coat Drive for needy students at Meadowlane Elementary School by purchasing brand new coats for each student who was recommended by the Principal and her staff. South Griffin Lodge No. 697 partners with Meadowlane Elementary School on other projects, which they do various things for the students throughout the year ranging from donating school supplies to mentoring. They encourage all lodges to partner with a school in your area to reach out and help someone in need. Taking care of widows and orphans is everyone's obligation.

Contributor — WM Toby Dixon (No. 697)

Pictured are PM Eric Harrell, Bro. Richie Miles, Principal McDonald, Bro. Desi Morgan, Bro. Donald Housey, Bro. Javor Patterson, Bro. Cleodis Feagins and Bro. Curtis Mitchell



Phoenix Lodge No. 428

Tis the Season of Giving Back

The holiday season is a special time for Phoenix Lodge No. 428, a time of giving back to its community. This year the lodge members decided to come together and spend a day giving back to the children and elderly by visiting the local DHR and nursing homes to hand out gifts and smiles during the holiday season. Phoenix Lodge No. 428 normally meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, however, Worshipful Master Carlton Jones proposed to the craft that it would be good to meet in their community on the 4th Tuesday, December 20, 2016. The brothers unanimously agreed. The first stop was at the Russell County Department of Human Resources in Phenix City, Alabama.



Junior Warden Keith Daniel reached out to DHR and informed them that Phoenix Lodge No. 428's brothers would like to come visit and assist where needed. To the delight of the Director, Ms. Cherry Jones, she coordinated with her staff and they informed her of the need of Christmas gifts for two young men that would not be having a good Christmas. The message was relayed to Junior Warden Keith Daniel and he in turn relayed it back to WM Jones and the craft. Without hesitation, the lodge brothers came together and purchased several Christmas gifts for the young men. On the afternoon of December 20, Phoenix Lodge No. 428 arrived to deliver the gifts to the staff of DHR. A partnership was established with DHR and Lodge No. 428.

Nothing can define the principal tenets of freemasonry better than by demonstrating it. Phoenix Lodge No. 428 decided to do just that on Tuesday, December 20, 2016. These principle tenets of Freemasonry are closely related to the Three Graces which are Faith, Hope and Charity, and which are also known as the Theological Virtues. It is said the greatest of these is Charity. In that context we as Masons are taught to come to the assistance of a distressed worthy brother; so the brothers of 428 visited two local nursing homes, Canterbury Health Care Facility and Parkwood Nursing Home. The brothers visited with the residents of both nursing homes where they visited every room. They handed out Christmas Cards and even sung church hymns to the delight of the staff and residence of both Canterbury and Parkwood facilities. As the brothers departed both nursing homes they circled together holding hands and prayed. This charitable act demonstrated by Phoenix Lodge No. 428 embodied the true meaning of Masonry and left a lasting impression with everyone at both DHR and the nursing homes. Job well done Phoenix Lodge No. 428!



On the afternoon of December 20, Phoenix Lodge No. 428 arrived to deliver the gifts to the staff of DHR. A partnership was established with DHR and Lodge No. 428.



As the brothers departed both nursing homes they circled together holding hands and prayed. This charitable act demonstrated by Phoenix Lodge No. 428 embodied the true meaning of Masonry and left a lasting impression with everyone at both DHR and the nursing homes. Job well done Phoenix Lodge No. 428!

Contributor — WM Carl Jones (No. 428)

REGION 5

News and Events from Region 5

Ruth Lodge No. 33 Supporting Its Community

On October 16 and November 12, 2016, the brothers of Ruth Lodge No. 33 offered assistance to the staff at The Firehouse Shelter, a homeless facility, in Birmingham, AL. They assisted with preparing and serving the meals. The lodge also donated several bags of clothing.

On November 19, 2016, Ruth Lodge No. 33 provided five families with Thanksgiving dinner baskets. The baskets were arranged by the brothers of Ruth Lodge No. 33 and distributed by Worshipful Master Curtis Pasley.

Ruth Lodge No. 33 visited the Birmingham Nursing and Rehab Center in Birmingham on December 18, 2016. On speaking with nursing and rehab center employees, Kathryn Duncan and Laverna Armstrong, it was brought to the lodge's attention that about 140 residents were in the need of socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste and lotion. As one of its many community services, the brethren at Ruth Lodge No. 33 provided 300 pairs of socks, 150 toothbrushes, 150 bottles of lotion, 150 tubes of toothpaste, and 150 bottles of body wash and hand soap. Ruth lodge continues to let their light shine.



Pictured brothers in attendance were Worshipful Master Curtis Pasley, Brothers Willie Pickett, Daniel Kimbrough, Henry Nobel III, Deven Hawkins, Glenn Adams, Arlander Taylor IV and Robert Lee

Contributor – Bro. Donwayne Sanders (No. 33)

JCCEO Receives Christmas Toys from Lodges in Birmingham Area



On December 14, 2016, several lodges in Birmingham donated toys to the students at the Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity- head start program. The JCCEO is a pre-k Head Start Program based in the Birmingham area that serves local three to five year old children. They provide basic education in Math, Reading, and English. The JCCEO Head Start Program receives 80% of the funds necessary to operate its program from the Federal government. The other 20% must come from the community in the form of "in-kind" or "volunteer" services other material and financial contributions to the program. There were several lodges that assisted in collecting toys for students. W.M. Curtis Nelson of Geometry No. 410, W.M. Lonnie Myricks of Mack-Andrew No. 624, W.M. Godfrey Johnson of Archive No. 75, W.M. Walter Greene of Tuxedo No. 431, W.M. Zach Rucker of Triune No. 430 lead the charge in brothers collecting toys and delivering the toys to the JCCEO head start school.

Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624 and H&R Block Christmas Toys

In December of 2016, Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624 partnered with H&R Block to donate can goods to a local food bank and toys to deserving children in the Birmingham area. Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624 has partnered with H&R Block for the past two years to bring Christmas to the children of the community. Brother Daniel Everson has been the Chairman of the Christmas toy drive for the past two years. Mack-Andrew No. 624 has been collecting toys for children for several years to ensure that Christmas is brought to the homes of various families.

Contributor — RW Charles Motley

Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319

For God, For Pride, For Freedom Manor

On December 20th, the brothers of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 again visited the residents of Freedom Manor to spread Christmas cheer. Freedom Manor is a low-income residential facility managed by the Housing Authority of the Birmingham District. The residents came down and spent an evening of fun, food and fellowship with the brothers. A special relationship has developed with the craft and the men of Freedom Manor. Monthly, the brothers of Pride of North Birmingham plan to fellowship with the residents offering seminars to the men on various topics. This is the second year that Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 has continued to keep its promise to give back to the community through this dinner and in so many other ways.

Contributor – Bro. Tim Sanford (No. 319)



Brothers. Kelvin Luster, Jeff Webb, Tony Lloyd, W.M. Tim Sanford, Visiting brothers Hector Camacho, and Phillip Stringer

Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319

Celebrating Service at Thanksgiving

On November 24, 2016, the brothers of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 gathered at Kelly Ingram Park in downtown Birmingham, AL to provide Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless. Since 2006, the lodge has gathered annually at the park to provide food, clothing, blankets and shoes to individuals and families attending the Thanksgiving Day event.

Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 would like to thank the lodges of District 14 and the OES chapters from Districts 13 and 19 that participated in this year's event. Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 would also like to give a special thanks to Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Advisor Tony Hayes and The Birmingham Kappa League, Jackson Olin Basketball Team, Nasiha Roho Adinasi, Alex Hall & Tytiana Seals of Warmth for the Winter, and Warming Heads, Hands, & Hearts for their assistance.

Contributor — Bro. Thalmus Mahand (No. 319)



PHA Family-Thanksgiving Day 2016

William O. Jones Lodge No. 971

Commitment to Community Service

A commitment to service began five years ago when a spouse of one of the brothers of William O. Jones Lodge No. 971 was employed at Shelby Emergency Assistance (S.E.A.), expressed to him the center's need for assistance during the holiday season to ensure all the kids served have a good Christmas. That's when brothers of William O. Jones agreed to do their part and have been assisting ever since. After all the toys had been contributed by brothers of the lodge, on Friday, December 16, 2016, W.M. Ian Jackson, Treas. Clint Maddox and SD Dwight Williams traveled to the S.E.A. office to deliver the toys. The directors and staff were very excited about the contribution and many thanks were given. The brothers of William O. Jones Lodge No. 971 were definitely thankful to be able to bring joy to families in need while also being able to represent the MWPHGLAL in a positive light to the communities in its jurisdiction. The lodge looks forward to continuing this service and growing it bigger and better in the years to come.

Contributor — Bro Ian Jackson (No. 971)



Members of William O. Jones Lodge No. 971 delivering Christmas toys to the Shelby Emergency Assistance Office

REGION 6

News and Events from Region 6

District No. 17 Supporting Its Veterans

On Friday, November 11, 2016, lodges within District No. 17 came together to participate in the Veterans Day parade in Huntsville, AL. The Veterans Day Parade in Huntsville is always an event that is well supported by many organizations throughout the Huntsville community and abroad, including Prince Hall Masons of District No. 17. The District takes pride in supporting Veterans in the area and especially those that are actual members of the lodges in North Alabama. This was also an opportunity for the seasoned brothers that are veterans to share old war stories with the younger brothers which inspired them to be proud of their participation in the parade celebrating their brothers. The Veterans Day parade has become a staple event on the Masonic calendar for the lodges in District No. 17. This was also another opportunity for Prince Hall Masons to show our presence in the community and the brothers took advantage of it. This year was even more special due to the fact that the presiding officer General Dennis Via is now an actual member of the Jurisdiction of Alabama Prince Hall Masons.

Contributor – RW Anthony Johnson



District No. 17 Supports Habitat for Humanity

On Saturday, October 1, 2016, brothers from various lodges within District No. 17 came together to conduct its annual community service project. This year's project was to assist in building a home for a low-income single parent family located in Huntsville, AL. Upon being appointed, Grand District Deputy Anthony Johnson polled the lodges to determine whether or not the District should conduct an annual community service project in addition to the projects that each of the lodges participate in throughout the year. After lodges all agreed to have an annual community service project the district contacted representatives of Habitat for Humanity to offer the assistance of the lodges in building a home. The lodges that were represented included Evening Star No. 6, Morning Star No. 50, Athelstine No. 71, Lincoln No. 99, and Sweet Home No. 179. The brothers had a great time in building the home while putting their carpentry skills to the test. The family was very appreciative of the support that was provided by the brothers which played a key role in the home being completed in a timely manner. "The best part of participating in a project such as this is the teamwork demonstrated by the brothers and knowing the end product will be a blessing to a family", stated Grand District Deputy Johnson. The District is already in the planning phases of its next community service project for 2017.

Contributor – RW Anthony Johnson



Big Spring Lodge No. 29's Community Service

On December 22, 2016, the brothers of Big Spring Lodge No. 29 decided to donate waters and juices to the Rescue Me Project located in Muscle Shoals, AL. Rescue Me Project is a local nonprofit mentoring association for people of all ages. Its highly creative, captivating, and inspirational presentation focuses on today's most prevalent social issues such as addiction, suicide, bullying, depression, and self-development. Their dynamic presentation includes visual art, music, skits of comedic and dramatic content and powerful inspirational speaking. The team offers a precise, sincere, and compassionate look inside the struggles plaguing the youth and families of the modern generation. The Rescue Me Project travels nationwide to offer its program to schools, churches, and communities. The brothers of Big Spring Lodge No. 29 admired the things the team offers to the communities as it resonates with what we as masons are built upon.

Big Spring Lodge No. 29 also donated cases of gatorade and bottled water to the local Willie Green Recreational Youth Football team.

Contributor — WM Jori Ricks (No. 29)



Morning Star Lodge No. 50 & Hendley Chapter No. 855's Community Service

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

— Matthew 25:40

On October 24th, November 9th, and December 8, 2016, members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 and Hendley Chapter No. 855 OES continued their support to Huntsville's Downtown Rescue Mission through their community service program serving and feeding the homeless. This community service program has become a monthly service program which provided encouragement and allows face to face interaction with the residents. The residents there are very thankful and Morning Star Lodge members are also thankful and blessed by the encounter and live experience.

WM Jimmy Benson states that nothing warms the heart more than that of giving of yourself in support of someone who is less fortunate than you. "No one can do everything but everyone can do something". With this in mind, Morning Star Lodge and Hendley Chapter prepares to move into this season of sacrifice and giving with their hearts and compass's open in service to the North Alabama community.

Contributor — WM Jimmy Benson (No. 50)



Morning Star Lodge No. 50 & Hendley Chapter No. 855's Christmas Food Box

On December 16, 2016, members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 and Hendley Chapter No. 855 OES provided Christmas food baskets to their widows, widowers and needy families within their North Alabama community. This is an annual charitable event conducted by the lodge to not only promote fellowship within the lodge while packing the boxes, but also to provide a blessing to those that may be less fortunate during the Christmas season.

The evening was capped off with a fellowship between the membership of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 and Hendley Chapter No. 855 as WM Jimmy Benson and WM Nicole Rainey encouraged motivation for this project through food, fun and fellowship during the process.

Contributor — WM Jimmy Benson (No. 50)



**Working together is what Lodge No. 50 and Chapter No. 855
do in support of our own and the Community-at-Large!!**

Lincoln Lodge No. 99's Annual Holiday Celebration

Lincoln Lodge No. 99 brought together many North Alabama Prince Hall Lodge members, families and friends, as the Madison lodge celebrated its Annual Holiday Celebration on December 2, 2016, at the House of Alpha in Huntsville, Alabama. The event is held annually to help Lincoln support its building fund and assist with other community projects and events held in the Madison area. Prizes of two flat screen HD televisions, gift cards and restaurant dinner packages were given. The Annual Holiday Celebration has grown to be a well-known event throughout North Alabama. The planning committee is already reserving a larger venue along with adding special guests to the roster this year.

Contributor — Bro. James Sandefur III (No. 99)



Members and guests attend the House of Alpha to help Lincoln Lodge No. 99 celebrate its Annual Holiday Celebration.

Goodway Lodge No. 222 Participates in Community Halloween Party

On October 3, the brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222 had a great time participating in Calvary Hills Community Center's Annual Halloween Party! The brothers have always supported the Community Center at least twice a month with either mentoring or providing meals to the kids after school. During the Halloween party, Past Master Cortezz Simmons decided to take his participation a step further by dressing up and participating in their haunted house. Past Master Marion Orr Jr. and Senior Warden Tiji Allen provided food and treats for the kids which also contributed to making this event one to remember.

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



The Lambskin

A Poem by Edgar A. Guest

*It is not ornamental, the cost is not great,
There are other things far more useful, yet truly I state,
Tho of all my possessions, there's none can compare,
With that white leather apron, which all Masons wear.*

*As a young lad I wondered just what it all meant,
When Dad hustled around, and so much time was spent
On shaving and dressing and looking just right,
Until Mother would say: "It's the Masons tonight."*

*And some winter nights she said: "What makes you go,
Way up there tonight thru the sleet and the snow,
You see the same things every month of the year."
Then Dad would reply: "Yes, I know it, my dear."*

*Forty years I have seen the same things, it is true.
And though they are old, they always seem new,
For the hands that I clasp, and the friends that I greet,
Seem a little bit closer each time that we meet."*

*Years later I stood at that very same door,
With good men and true who had entered before,
I knelt at the altar, and there I was taught
That virtue and honor can never be bought.*

*That the spotless white lambskin all Masons revere,
If worthily worn grows more precious each year,
That service to others brings blessings untold,
That man may be poor tho surrounded by gold.*

*I learned that true brotherhood flourishes there,
That enmities fade 'neath the compass and square,
That wealth and position are all thrust aside,
As there on the level men meet and abide.*

*So, honor the lambskin, may it always remain
Forever unblemished, and free from all stain,
And when we are called to the Great Father's love,
May we all take our place in that Lodge up above.*

Obituaries

Brothers Called Home by the Grand Architect

Brother Nathaniel E. Meador was born in Cuero, TX on May 7, 1940 to parents William and Chris Antha Meador and was called home on December 6, 2016.

Brother Meador received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Columbia College in Business Administration, and also a Masters in Logistics Management from Florida Institute of Technology. He served in the U. S. Army for 21 years as active duty; which included two tours in Vietnam. Once retired from active duty, Brother Meador served 32 years in civil service at Redstone Arsenal. He was a Master Mason for over 50 years, Past Master and a faithful member of Morning Star Lodge No. 50. He also served as Scout Master and Merit Badge Counselor for the Boy Scouts of America Troop No. 102. Brother Meador was a faithful member of First Missionary Baptist Church for more than 30 years. He worked as a active member of the 100 Black Men of America, Huntsville Chapter for over ten years and received the Mentor of the Year Award in 2006.



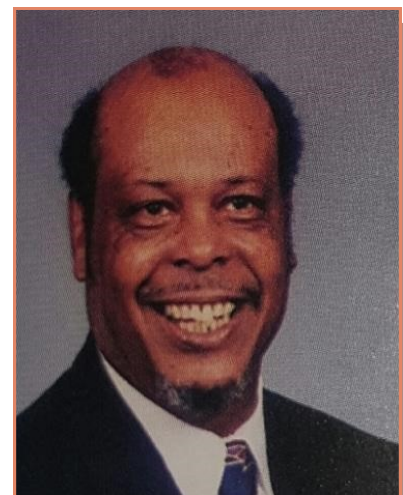
*Brother Nathaniel E. Meador
May 7, 1940 - Dec. 6, 2016)*



Bro. Jessie L. Daniel, Sr. was born January 19, 1932 to Andrew and Ella Daniel in Sipsey, Alabama.

Bro. Jessie L. Daniel, Sr. attended Birmingham Public Schools and graduated from A. H. Parker High School.

Bro. Jessie L. Daniel, Sr. confessed his faith in Christ at an early age. Bro. Daniel joined Greater New Antioch Baptist Church where he served as a Deacon and Church Clerk for 36 years. Later, he joined the Worship Center Christian Church. When Bro. Daniel's health failed, he sent his tithes to Bethel Baptist Church. Bro. Jessie L. Daniel was united in holy matrimony to Marian Jones on November 24, 1976. Unto this union one child was born, Bethany Daniel Redeaux. Bro. Jessie L. Daniel served 20 years in the Air Force and retired as an E6 Sergeant. After retiring from the Air Force, he worked at AT&T as a Technician and retired as an operator. Bro. Jessie L. Daniel was the Co-Founder and Chartered Worshipful Master of Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624. Bro. Jessie L. Daniel was elevated to the 33° in the United Supreme Council Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite Freemasonry PHA, S.J. Bro. Jessie L. Daniel received his wings on December 5, 2016 surrounded by his loved ones.



*Brother Jessie L. Daniel Sr.
Jan. 19, 1932 - Dec 5, 2016)*

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 (cseditor@mwphglal.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 submissions for the next issue of *The Cornerstone Message* is 5 April 2017.** These articles should include events from **January 2017—March 2017**. Articles are to be submitted with a minimum of one paragraph and using Microsoft Word (Times New Roman 11) and photographs should be of good quality JPEG format and captioned. No more than two articles per lodge can be submitted for each edition. Permission to reprint original articles appearing in *The Cornerstone Message* is granted to all recognized Masonic publications.

THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE



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Morning Star Lodge No. 50

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RW Dr. L. Ken Collins, II

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RW Belfondia Pou

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