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THE M.W.P.H.G.L.
OF ALABAMA

THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE



VOLUME VII, ISSUE III

OCTOBER 2014

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The Grand Master's Trestle Board



*Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father which is in
heaven. ~ Matthew 5:16*

The past few months have been very busy and productive for our beloved organization. We were blessed with a very fruitful 144th Annual Communication and we were also blessed with a very successful Prince Hall Americanism Weekend. The success of both events would not have been possible without your participation and support. Thank you for caring about the well-being of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of

Alabama. I also want to take this time to thank those of you who supported my testimonial. Your generosity, support and words of encouragement are very much appreciated. brothers who have begun the process but have not paid the \$50.00 fee to complete it. I thank those who have committed and I ask those who have begun the process to please finish it. As soon as we get 250 full commitments, the tags will be printed. The Prince Hall Legacy Foundation will receive \$41.25 of the fee to help with our scholarships. Together we can make this a success. Further details on how to commit to a Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama car tag can be found inside this issue of *The Cornerstone Message*.

We are continuing to experience a growth spurt due to our Traveling Again Reclamation Program (TARP). Let us continue to encourage our "out of bounds" brothers to reinstate through TARP. This is the perfect way to rebuild our lodges and increase our membership. TARP has been extended through December 31, 2014.

Although our Grand Lodge has been rapidly improving over the past year, let us not get caught up relishing in the moment. There is still work to be done. Let us do all we can to emulate the masonic teachings of the beehive. We must continue to work together harmoniously to improve this Grand Lodge as we spread the cement of brotherly love and affection.

As always, I thank each of you for your hard work, prayers and support. With your help we can continue to carry this Grand Lodge onward and upward to unimaginable heights. I pray God's grace upon you and His continued blessings during this upcoming holiday season.

Fraternally,

Honorable Corey D. Hawkins, Sr Esq.

Most Worshipful Grand Master

Tuesday, November 4, 2014, is mid-term election day. I challenge each of you to go to the polls and exercise your right to vote. Also, assist others who may need transportation to the polls. Our forefathers, as well as, many of our seasoned brothers, sacrificed their lives, suffered beatings, brutality and intimidation tactics so that we might have a right to vote. **PLEASE DO NOT TAKE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE FOR GRANTED. EXERCISE IT!!!**

Our car tag campaign is going very well. We currently have approximately one hundred commitments to purchase a tag. However, we have almost three hundred



RW Anthony J. Johnson
Publication Editor

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



Message from the Editor

Greetings,

To all the readers and supporters of this Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama titled *The Cornerstone Message*: Many events have transpired since the distribution of the second edition of the Grand Lodge newsletter under the administration of Grand Master Hawkins. You will find in this publication that those moments have been captured

through pictorial or written contributions. The Jurisdiction of Alabama during this time period in making every effort to become the "kreme de la kreme" of Prince Hall Masonry. I would like to take this time to personally commend Grand Master Hawkins on his many successful undertakings since the distribution of the last newsletter including the Wreath Laying ceremonies of two Past Grand Masters, establishing a Prince Hall

Americanism Football Classic, and conducting a state level Prince Hall Americanism Day Program. JOB WELL DONE!

Brothers I ask that you please continue to adhere to the guidelines as stated in this newsletter when submitting your articles.

Lastly, as we transition into the holiday season let me be the first to wish you all a happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and happy New Year. Most importantly let us not forget the less fortunate during this time of year as we have been guided by the Great Architect.

- RW Anthony J. Johnson
Publication Editor

Reclamation Drive (TARP)

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

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

- \$20.00 reinstatement fee
- \$10.00 taxes
- \$25.00 registration
- \$50.00 assessment (Have two years to pay the remaining \$200.00)
- \$105.00 Total

TARP serves a two-fold purpose: (1.) It gives suspended Brothers a more affordable means of reinstating and (2.) It gives dying lodges a final opportunity to salvage their existence by increasing their numbers before being forced to close or merge. Our Grand Master has extended a challenge for the members of this jurisdiction to go out and reclaim our lost Brothers. TARP will be in effect through December 31, 2014.

Our Mission

The mission of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama is to continue the legacy of making good men better through fraternal brotherhood, to aid and assist our widows, orphans, and distressed brothers, and to contribute to the community through service, scholarship, charity and training.



Grand Lodge Tag: Approved !!!

Order your



ALABAMA PRINCE HALL MASONIC TAG

COMMIT TO PURCHASE YOUR NEW GRAND LODGE TAG TODAY!!!

*(TAG WILL BE PRINTED AFTER 250 COMMITMENTS)
Be one of the First...*

Go Online Today & Commit

1. Visit <https://precommit.mvtrip.alabama.gov/UserCommit/Index>
2. Select "Request Plate" UNDERNEATH the Prince Hall Tag photo
3. Follow Instructions, Print the Transmittal Sheet Emailed to you
4. Mail a Copy of Dues Card & Transmittal Sheet to address provided
5. Await email from the State Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) on How to Submit \$50.00 payment

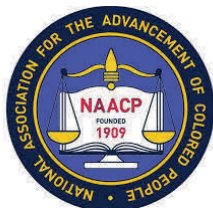
❖ YOUNGER BROTHERS: PLEASE ASSIST OUR SENIOR BROTHERS WHEN POSSIBLE ❖

*(You may commit to the MWPHGL of AL Tags Anytime
Not just during your renewal Month!)*

Achievements

Grand Master Hawkins Named NAACP's “Man of the Year”

On August 24, 2014, Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., was awarded the prestigious Metro Birmingham Branch of the NAACP's Man of the Year Award. The award ceremony took place at St. Paul United Methodist Church in downtown Birmingham, Alabama. Grand Master Hawkins was escorted by his daughter, the lovely Miss Autumn Denise Hawkins and accompanied by his son, Corey D. Hawkins, Jr. He was awarded with a plaque and a gold medal. Grand Master Hawkins was humbled by the award and thankful for the recognition. Grand Master Hawkins looks forward to a continued relationship with the NAACP.



Grand Master Hawkins with son and daughter

Brother Receives Promotion While Serving in Afghanistan



Brother David Harden (No. 50) being promoted

On 1 August, 2014, Brother David Harden Jr. (No. 50) was promoted to the rank of Sergeant First Class. Brother Harden is currently serving with the U.S. Army in Kandahar, Afghanistan as a Logistics Supply Specialist. Brother Harden is an active member of Morning Star Lodge No. 50. Brother Harden is currently serving his third tour to the Middle East including two tours to Iraq and one to Afghanistan. At the completion of his tour in Afghanistan he will return to his home base at Ft. Hood, Texas.



144TH GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION

Grand Lodge Communication Events

Wreath Laying Ceremony for Past Grand Master S.J. Bennett



Samson Julius Bennett was born in Marengo County, Alabama. He attended the rural schools of Marengo County. After graduating from high school he matriculated to Payne University in Selma, Alabama. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree and did further studies at Howard University in Washington, D.C. He also held the Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Birmingham Bible College and the Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree from Miles College.

In 1957, Bennett was appointed Grand Endowment Secretary of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F.& A.M. of Alabama. He held the position until he was elected Most Worshipful Grand Master in 1967. He served as Grand Master for over 30 years. In 1994, S.J. Bennett was elected to succeed Dr. I.H. Clayborn as Sovereign Grand Commander, of the United Supreme Council, A.A.S.R.M., Southern Jurisdiction, P.H.A. Dr. Bennett continued to serve as Grand Master of Alabama and as Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction until his demise on January 18, 1999.

144TH GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION

Grand Lodge Communication Events

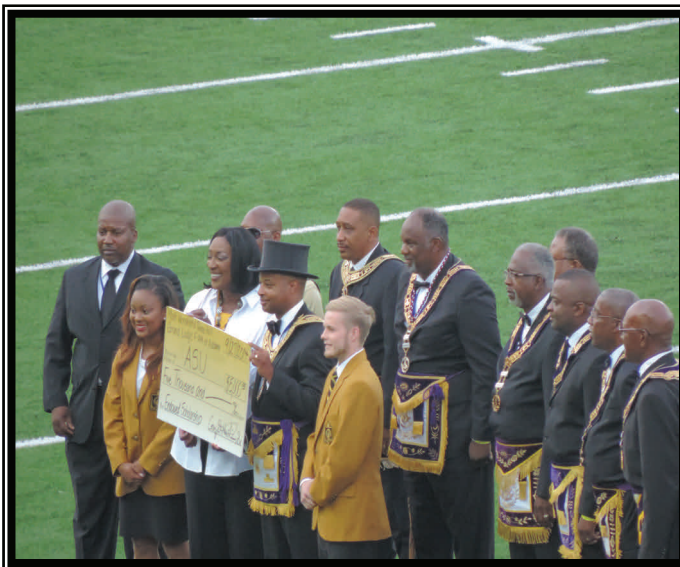
Grand Master Signs Agreement for Prince Hall Football Classic

On Tuesday, June 22, 2014, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama and Alabama State University announced the establishment of the Prince Hall Masons Americanism Football Classic at a press conference held at the 144th Annual Grand Lodge Communication.

The two-year agreement was signed by Alabama State University President Dr. Gwendolyn Boyd and Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins, Sr. This year's game featured the Hornets hosting Texas Southern on September 27th at 5 p.m. In 2015, Alabama State will host Grambling State on September 19th at the New ASU Stadium.



"We are certainly excited to establish a third classic for Alabama State University," said Dr. Boyd of this new classic which joins the existing State Farm Magic City Classic and the Turkey Day Classic. "We are excited that when you (the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama) did reach out for a partner, not only in football, but in enhancing the lives of our young people, and especially our young men, you chose Alabama State. It is important that we always acknowledge that our students are student athletes, they are students first. We want them to be champions in the classroom as well as champions on the field. In partnering with you, they will see role models and examples of excellence in the community. You will help them understand what it takes to be real men in their community, and to be real men who continue to give back and are productive citizens in the world."



"I look at this as a great opportunity as Black men to be role models to young men going to school trying to better themselves," Grand Master Hawkins said. "Part of our mission statement is to present scholarships. This is an outstanding way for us to do so. We have to be more involved in our children's lives. In order to be a man, you must see a man, and I think this is an outstanding opportunity. I am thankful to Alabama State University for allowing us to partner with you. It's a blessing to have a school that's willing to do such."

Alabama State defeated Texas Southern by a score of 38-3.

A great time was had by all in attendance. Many members of the Prince Hall Family tailgated and attended the game. A highlight of the game was when Grand Master Hawkins and Grand Lodge Officers presented Dr. Boyd with a \$5,000 scholarship. Also at the end of the game Grand Master Hawkins presented the winning team and the MVP of the game with trophies.

144TH GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION

Grand Lodge Communication Events

Grand Lodge Session Welcome Program



144TH GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION

Grand Lodge Communication Events



144TH GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION

Grand Lodge Communication Events

Grand Lodge Session Masonic Workshop



144TH GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION

Grand Lodge Communication Events

Opening of the Grand Lodge Session



144TH GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION

Grand Lodge Communication Events

GRAND MASTER HAWKINS BESTOWS HONORARY PAST GRAND MASTER UPON TWO WORTHY BROTHERS

At the 144th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama, Grand Master Hawkins took liberty to bestow the honor of Past Grand Master on Brother Benjamin Earl Beasley, Jr., Grand District Deputy of District No. 8 and Brother Jimmy L. Farmer, Grand District Deputy of District No. 5.

Brother Beasley was born on May 28, 1927, in Atlanta, Georgia, to Benjamin E. Beasley, Sr. and Mildred Beasley. In his early childhood, Brother Beasley moved to Montgomery, Alabama. He attended Booker T. Washington High School, Alabama Teachers College for Negroes and Morehouse College.

He married Annie Bell Jordan in April of 1946. In 1950, Brother Beasley moved his family to Waterbury, Connecticut where he worked for Princeton Mill, a textile company, for many years. While in Waterbury he was an active member of the Goodwill Elks Lodge, serving as Exalted Ruler.

In 1972, Brother Beasley relocated back to Montgomery, Alabama and went to work for the State of Alabama (ABC Board) until his retirement. Honorary Past Grand Master Beasley is currently an active member of First Baptist Church, Montgomery and is Director of the Meals on Wheels program.

Mr. and Mrs. Beasley are the proud parents of Benjamin E. Beasley III*, Jackson D. Beasley*, Rachel J Ellis*, Annie D. Frazier, Alma L. Thompson, John M. Beasley and Alfred F. Beasley (*deceased). They are the proud grandparents of twenty four grandchildren.



Brother Beasley's masonic affiliations are as follows:

Past Master of W. T. Woods Lodge No. 842

R. W. Grand District Deputy of District No. 8

Member of Prince Hall Consistory No. 19

Member of United Supreme Council (33° Mason)



Mr. Jimmy L. Farmer was born in Shorterville, Alabama on October 21, 1932. He obtained his early education at the segregated Henry County Training School in Abbeville, Alabama. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the Army and served two years as a medic in Germany during the Korean Conflict. After this experience, he returned to the U.S. to pursue higher education at Alabama State University in Montgomery during the heated Civil Rights movement and the Montgomery Bus Boycott. He persevered in his educational pursuit despite local church bombings, warnings from former Governor George Wallace about the expulsion of any ASU student who participated in the boycott, and the potential firing of ASU faculty and staff who engaged in Civil Rights efforts. He ultimately completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. Working full time, he worked on his Masters while teaching and being a loving husband and father. He completed his Masters in Education with a concentration in Elementary/Secondary Ed with a Certification in Education Supervision. He also completed an Educational Specialist degree in Education Supervision as well.



Mr. Farmer began his teaching career in 1958. He taught at the former Northside School in Headland, Alabama. He was in the classroom for 19 years. He then moved into the Central Office in Headland and finished his 30 plus year career as the Vocational Director for Henry County Schools.

Mr. Farmer's professional activities include his involvement in the Henry County Retired Teachers Association where he serves as treasurer, his membership in Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated, and his involvement with the Southeast Alabama Church of God in Christ. Mr. Farmer is the District Superintendent for five counties within the Church of God in Christ, including Henry, Houston, Geneva, Coffee, and Dale Counties. As a Mason, Mr. Farmer has held a number of leadership positions, including service as the Worshipful Master of Lodge No. 218 and the Grand District Deputy of District No. 5. He chairs the Lodge's annual scholarship program, which has awarded ten scholarships to college-bound seniors from the District No. 5 area.

Honorary Past Grand Master Farmer's hobbies include riding, eating, landscaping, engaging in church activities, and raising a variety of plants and trees. He is a loved and widely respected member of his local community and serves as a mentor and father figure to many. His passion for service and people is evident, and his philosophy is, "As long as you have breath in your body, you have an opportunity to serve." He has been married to Mrs. Teresa Hogans Farmer, a former educator, for 50 years, and is the father of Dr. Monica F. Cox (husband Ishbah), professors at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Congratulations to both Brother Beasley and Brother Farmer. Thank you for all your hard work and service to this great organization.

I am my brother's keeper...

Faith, Hope, and Charity



144TH GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION

Grand Lodge Communication Events

Grand Lodge Session Award Presentations



*The object of Masonry is to make good men
better.*

144TH GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION

Grand Lodge Communication Events



144TH GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION

Grand Lodge Communication Events

Grand Master Hawkins With Visiting Dignitaries



Pictured front row left to right: Melvin Thorpe-GM of Maryland, Dr. Deary Vaughn-GM of Oklahoma, Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.-GM of Alabama, Dr. Ralph Slaughter- GM of Louisiana, Wilbert Curtis-GM of Texas, Maurice F. Lucas, Sr.- GM of Mississippi, Marvin Chambers- PGM of North Carolina

Back row left to right: Dr. Benjamin Barksdale-PGM of Georgia, J. Raymond Murray- PGM of D.C., Bruce James- GM of Georgia, Cleveland Wilson-GM of Arkansas, Arvin W. Glass- GM of Tennessee, Tyrone Hampton- GM of Michigan

144TH GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION

Grand Lodge Communication Events

Lodge of Sorrow Program



PRINCE HALL AMERICANISM WEEKEND

Grand Master's Testimonial Reception

Grand Master's Testimonial Reception

On Friday, September 26, 2014 the kick off to the Grand Master's Testimonial and Prince Hall Americanism Classic Weekend commenced with a reception prior to the Testimonial. During this reception guests were allowed the opportunity to partake in the hospitality while enjoying musical selections being played by a local band from Booker T. Washington Magnet School.

There were several dignitaries in attendance including Deputy Grand Master of Wisconsin Micah Tharpe, Past Imperial Potentates Oliver Washington and Homer Buchanan. Also in attendance was the Grand Worthy Matron of Mizpah Grand Chapter Sister Annie Pringle.

During the reception Grand Master Hawkins presented a token of appreciation to the band for their outstanding performance making the start of the weekend an event to remember.



Grand Master Hawkins presenting a token of appreciation to the band



Grand Worthy Matron Annie Pringle attends the Grand Master's Testimonial reception



Guests including Past Imperial Potentates Oliver Washington and Homer Buchanan enjoy the reception

PRINCE HALL AMERICANISM WEEKEND

Grand Master's Testimonial

Grand Master's Testimonial

The Grand Master's Testimonial was a very successful event as guests from all over the state and the U.S. came together to honor Grand Master Hawkins on his many past accomplishments and those yet to come. The guests were treated to a delightful meal during event.

Some of the highlights during the event included a walk down memory lane for Grand Master Hawkins as a video presentation was provided capturing memorable moments in his life leading up to his current position as Grand Master of the Jurisdiction of Alabama. This video provided the guests in attendance with a vivid look into the life of Grand Master Hawkins.



Grand Master Hawkins with family members in attendance



Grand Master Hawkins gives closing remarks

After the video presentation, remarks were given by a local physician promoting the awareness of prostate cancer and the importance of getting exams annually especially among African-American men over the age of 45.

The program next transitioned to a period of recognizing Grand Master Hawkins for his achievements and accomplishments in Prince Hall Masonry. After several guests and leaders of various organizations made presentations of tokens of appreciation for his meritorious service, commitment, and contributions, Grand Master Hawkins closed the program with remarks of gratitude to everyone in attendance and to the committee for the event.

PRINCE HALL AMERICANISM WEEKEND

Grand Master's Testimonial

Grand Master's Testimonial Presentations



PRINCE HALL AMERICANISM WEEKEND

Grand Master's Testimonial

Grand Master's Testimonial Presentations



PRINCE HALL AMERICANISM WEEKEND

Wreath Laying Ceremony

Past Grand Master S.S.H Washington's Wreath Laying Ceremony

On Saturday, September 27, 2014, Grand Master Hawkins deemed it necessary to take a brief moment from the weekend celebration to pay homage to one of the pioneers of Prince Hall Masonry for the Jurisdiction of Alabama and conduct a Wreath Laying Ceremony for Past Grand Master S.S.H. Washington. In accordance with the Grand Master's trestle board it is his intent to lay a wreath at the grave site of every deceased Grand Master's tomb during his tenure.



PRINCE HALL AMERICANISM WEEKEND

Football Game Tailgate



PRINCE HALL AMERICANISM WEEKEND

Football Game Tailgate



PRINCE HALL AMERICANISM WEEKEND

Prince Hall Americanism Program

Jurisdiction of Alabama Celebrates Prince Hall Americanism

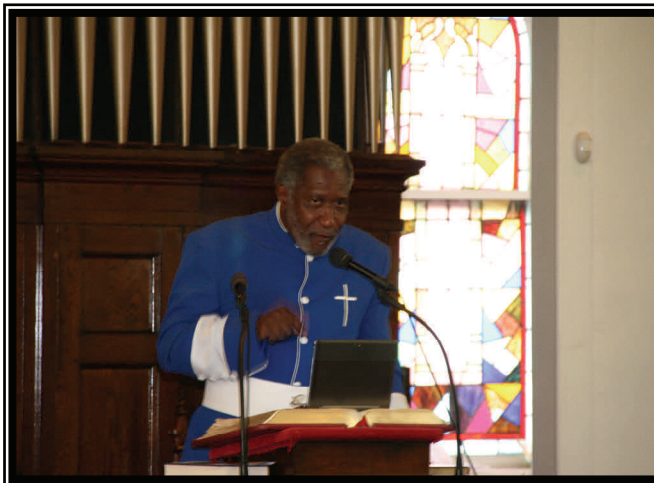
The Prince Hall Americanism Day Classic Weekend was culminated with the Prince Hall Americanism Program and Worship Service. During the program a brief narrative of the history of Prince Hall was presented to the guests in attendance followed by recognition of each Prince Hall affiliated body within the state of Alabama. During the worship service Rev. E. Baxter Morris (Grand Chaplain) brought forth an inspirational message.

The program was concluded with closing remarks from Grand Worthy Matron Pringle and from Grand Master Hawkins at which time he expressed



Brothers entering the church sanctuary

his gratitude to the brothers and sisters that attended the weekend's events. Grand Master Hawkins also commended the committee on an exceptional job in their execution of making this endeavor a success.



Rev. E. Baxter Morris (Grand Chaplain)



Brothers of the Jurisdiction of Alabama

Footprints of Prince Hall Freemasonry in Alabama - Part I

The Post-Colonial Era - Brother Richard Potter

As we've been conducting research on the background of Freemasonry in our state we've learned that there have been a number of twists and turns on the footprints of Freemasonry in Alabama.

Our initial view of Freemasonry leads us to believe that the first "Prince Hall Masons" with lineage from African Lodge, No. 459 came in the late 1860s. However, we've learned that the first documented Prince Hall Mason, Bro. Richard Potter came to Mobile between 1812 and 1820.

Born in 1783, in Hopkinton, Massachusetts to a slave mother named Dinah, Potter left the US at 10 years old for England. Bro. Potter was initiated into African Lodge No. 459, on December 3, 1811. In fact, he is listed as one of the original petitioners that requested the authority to confer the Mark Master, Past Master,

Most Excellent Master and Holy Royal Arch degrees to the United Grand Lodge of England on January 5, 1824. It must be also noted that Bro. Potter was named as a Royal Arch Mason in the "Declaration of Independence" of African Lodge, No. 459, on June 18, 1827. (Note: Anecdotally, he may have received the Holy Royal Arch Degree during his travels domestically from an English or American source.)

VENTRILOQUISM.

Mr. POTTER,
The VENTRILOQUIST.

Begs leave most respectfully to inform the Ladies and Gentlemen of that he intends to give an

Evening's Brush to Sweep away
CARE; Or, A Medley to Please.

At Mr. Ball-Room,
On Evening instant.
In the course of the Evening will be offered up cards of

100
CURIOUS BUT MYSTERIOUS
Experiments,
A SONG,

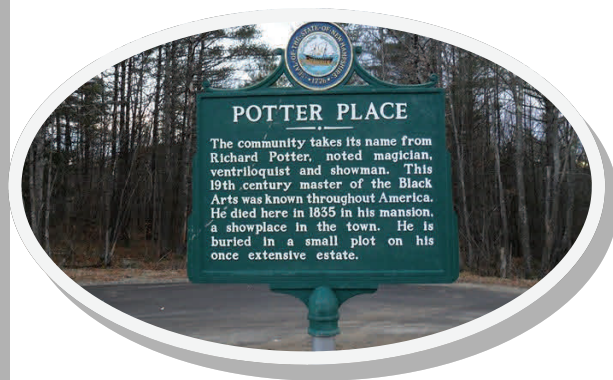
VENTRILOQUISM.

Mr. P. will display his wonderful but laborious powers of Ventriloquism. He throws his voice into many different parts of the room, and into the gentlemen's hats, trunks, &c. Imitates all kinds of Birds and Beasts, so that few or none will be able to distinguish his imitations from the reality. This part of the performance has never failed of exciting the surprise of the learned and well informed, as the conveyance of sounds is allowed to be one of the greatest curiosities of nature.

PART THIRD.

THE WHOLE TO CONCLUDE WITH A RECITATION AND SONG IN CHARACTER OF TIMOTHY NORFOLK

* Tickets - Cents, to be had at the place of performance. Children under 12 years of age, half price. Performance to commence at early evening-light. The public may rest assured that the Room will be in ample order for the reception of Visitors, handsomely illuminated, with good music & singing the Interludes. Ladies or Gentlemen desirous of having seats reserved for them, are requested to send their names to the Manager.



Bro. Potter was the first American-born magician. He eventually became the understudy to world-renowned magician John Rannie. Rannie would tour England and Scotland with Potter serving as his assistant. In 1811, Bro. Potter returned to the US and began his career at the Exchange Coffee House in Boston with his new bride Sally Harris.



Bro. Potter's notoriety as a skilled magician and ventriloquist made his show very lucrative throughout New England. His show was so intriguing to the Americans due their interest in mysticism and magic that Potter raised the price of his show in 1817, during the depression of 1815-1820, to \$1.00, during an era of the average worker making .50 cents per day.

The notable footprints of Prince Hall Freemasonry touching land in Mobile, Alabama is when Bro. Potter arrives to perform between 1812-1820. Potter, undeterred by the social-ills of racism in Mobile had successful performances. He is recorded to have made \$4,800 during his brief performance in Mobile, (in today's terms that equates to \$55,000). While he was unable to secure lodging in the local hotels he used alternative methods for lodging. In an act of quick-wittedness he decided to leave Mobile in the dead of night due to fear of theft or even death.

It cannot be said if Potter met with other Prince Hall Masons that were in Mobile at the time; however, it does prove positive that Prince Hall Masons have from 1775 until today touched every piece of American society.

[Disclaimer: During a visit to the Supreme Council, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Masonic Jurisdiction's House of the Temple in Washington, DC with Hon. Past Grand Master Homer L. Buchanan – MWPHGL-OH, we met with Bro. Brent Morris, PM discussing the historical aspects of the House of the Temple. I alluded to my current project writing the history of the Grand Lodge of Alabama and Bro. Morris discussed some information they unearthed on a man named Richard Potter and his life as a Prince Hall Mason and his visiting Mobile.]

As such, I reviewed the article by Bro. Elliot Saxton, 32°, entitled, "Bro. Richard Potter: "The Great Magician" and extracted a great deal of useful information on the earliest recorded footprint of a Prince Hall Mason coming in Alabama.

Special thanks to Bro. Morris, Saxton and MWGM Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq. for their assistance.]

Contributor– R. W. Dr. L. Ken Collins (Grand Historian)

REGION 5

News and Events from Region 5

Back-to-School 2014

On August 2, 2014, Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church-Mulga and Pride of North Birmingham No. 319 partnered for a back-to-school drive for the children in the Mulga neighborhood. Food, games and entertainment were provided for everyone's enjoyment. Through the partnership of Shady Grove and Pride of North Birmingham No. 319 over 40 children received backpacks and enough supplies to assist with the 2014-2015 school year.

Pride of North Birmingham No. 319 would like to thank Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church for their partnership with this year's back to school drive and we look forward to assisting even more families next year.



Children of the Mulga Community with Law Enforcement Representatives



Brothers of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 preparing for the event



-Contributor Bro. Thalmus Mahand (No. 319)

Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624

Lodge Fellowship Night

On August 2, 2014 the brothers of Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624 under the leadership of Worshipful Master Lonnie Myricks participated in a lodge fellowship night with their families. Mack-Andrew Lodge #624 met at the Trussville Lanes Bowling Alley to fellowship and meet with their families. Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624 presented Past Master Kevin Myricks with a token of appreciation for years of service. Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624 enjoyed bowling several games with their families.



But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

-1 John 1:7



- Contributor PM Charles Motley (No. 624)

Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624

Fundraiser

On August 30, 2014 and September 13, 2014 the brothers of Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624, under the leadership of Worshipful Master Lonnie Myricks, participated in a fundraiser at Legion Field in Birmingham, AL. Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624 worked concession stands at several sporting and entertainment events in Birmingham. Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624 participates in various fundraisers which funds their Back-to-School project, Thanksgiving baskets, Christmas baskets, and Easter baskets, to deserving families.



Members of Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624 hard at work

“Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624 participates in various fundraisers which funds their Back-to-School project, Thanksgiving baskets, Christmas baskets, and Easter baskets to deserving families.”



- Contributor PM Charles Motley (No. 624)

REGION 6

News and Events from Region 6

Working Together Works



On September 13, 2014, the officers and members of Goodway Lodge No. 222 rekindled their relationship with the sisters of Panzy OES Chapter No. 203, by providing a home-cooked breakfast and by fellowshiping before their stated meeting. During this gathering the sisters shared with the members of Goodway No. 222 a lot of our own history from when the land was donated, where the lodge building was built, down to the past community outreach and support programs. Now that our relationship has been rekindled we can go into our community to show and tell our story the GOODWAY.

Contributor- PM Willie E. Keller

Perry O. Ward Memorial Golf Tournament 2014



On August 9, 2014, the members of Evening Star Lodge No. 6 hosted their annual Perry O. Ward Memorial Golf Tournament, at the Colony Golf Course in Meridianville, Ala. This is one way in which Lodge No. 6 is trying to remember one of our most prominent members. The tournament was opened to all golfers, and several amateur golfers participated. A good time was had by all. Thanks go to the members of Evening Star Lodge No. 6. A special "thank you" goes out to the golfers who took time out from their busy schedules to participate in this year's tournament. Also, thank you to Mizpah Chapter No. 37 OES, for its support.

Joint Worship Service

On August 31, 2014, Evening Star Lodge No. 6 (WM James E. Lewis) and Mizpah Chapter No. 37 OES, (WM Mary Joiner) came together at First Baptist Church at 3509 Blue Springs Road for Joint Worship Service. An outstanding message was given by Pastor Julius Scruggs ("Human Problems and Divine Solutions" II Kings 4:1-7) the program was enjoyed by all who attended.

Contributor- WM James Lewis (No. 6)

Obituaries

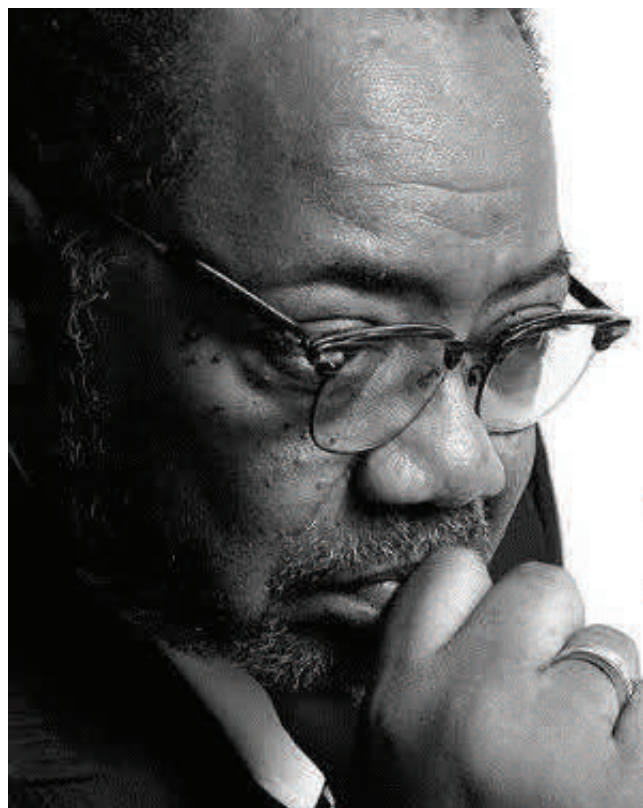


Brothers Called Home by the Grand Architect

The Reverend Dr. Bernard Williams, Sr., was a native of Fairfield, Alabama, and the son of the late Jimmy Williams and Mary L. Williams; Dr. Williams, departed this life and leaves a great void in the lives of loving relatives and friends and in the ranks of many loyal and dedicated Masonic Brothers and Sisters of the Order of Eastern Star Mizpah Grand Chapter on Friday, departing this realm August 22, 2014.

He was a member of the first class to integrate the Fairfield School System where he graduated; he enrolled and attended Tennessee State University with a major in Music Education for voice and the organ. Mr. Williams matriculated to Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, where he received multiple degrees; the first of which the Bachelors of Music in Music Education. Bro. Bernard set his sight on pursuing and graduating with the Masters of Arts Degree in Education Administration from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where he was a Danforth Fellow. Other education milestones Bro. Williams achieved was the Ed.S. Degree from Samford University in Education Administration; as well as a Masters in Theology and Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Mercy Seat School of Theology. Rev. Williams was conferred the Ed.D. in Education Leadership at Samford University on May 24, 2003. He was the recipient of a United Negro College Fund/Lilly Foundation Fellowship.

Dr. Williams' vitae included professional experiences as a teacher, band instructor in the Birmingham School System as well as Director of Police Athletic Teams, Chaplain and Reserve Officer. Dr. Williams had been employed with Miles College since 1998 and served as Certification Officer and Professor in the Division of Education and Director of the Miles College Choir where membership grew from 32 in 1998 to more than 100 traveling members. He was selected as spiritual Advisor to the Congressional Black Caucus; and nominated as one of the 15 Great U.S. Preachers by Ebony Magazine.



Reverend Dr. Bernard Williams, Sr. (No. 431)
Past Grand Worthy Patron of Mizpah Grand Chapter OES

Professor Williams' professional activities included the Alabama Congress of Christian Education, State Music Director; coordinator of fine Arts, Past Alabama State Youth Music Director National Congress of Christian Education Dean of Music and past Assistant Music Director for the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. Inc. He was a national songwriter, performer for the Gospel Music Workshop of America, producing commissioned works for the N.B.C.U.S.A., Inc., the National Association for Negro Musicians, Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God and the Miles College Choir.

Rev. Williams pastored Mount Moriah Baptist Church since 1981 where the growth of worshipers was divinely blessed with membership reaching over 1500 parishioners under his pastorate. With a full-time staff and God-inspired community spiritual ministries, the church sponsors and feeds over 150 downtrodden weekly. Dr. Williams conducted revivals and music workshops throughout the United States, Haiti, Africa, Nicaragua and the Caribbean.

Bro. Williams' community activities included: Member of Tuxedo Lodge #431, Grand Worthy Patron of Mizpah Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star-Prince Hall Affiliate, Alabama Jurisdiction; Grand Patron of the Conference of Grand Matrons and Grand Patrons; memberships in Khedive Temple #16 AEAONMS; a 33° Mason in Red Cross Consistory #2A; Past President of Metro Birmingham Ministers Conference; Vice-President of the Greater Pratt City Ministers Conference; Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; Kappa Kappa Psi Band Fraternity and Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity.

His Loving Survivors are: Two Sons; Eric (Katina) Williams and Bernard (Deirdre) Williams, II, Two Sisters; Lila (John) Hackett and Victoria Jeffery, Four Grandchildren; Amber Byrd, Eric Williams, Jr., Makaela Williams and Averie Williams, Nephew and Niece; Jonathan and Angela Hackett, Five Godchildren; Ondina, Jarvis, Jonathan and Kalaine Hall and Undreavous Gary, Special Friends; Gejuanica Maddox, Jackie French, Gaither Caffey and Angela Bedgood.



For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

-Romans 14:8

Brother Edwin O. “Sonny” Taylor was born in Huntsville, Alabama on September 8, 1956 to Sarah Jean Taylor and Horace Love. From early infancy he was raised in a warm, loving home by devoted parents Etta (Bootee) and Sylvester (O’Baby) Martin.

After graduating from J.O. Johnson High School, where he was a member of the JROTC, Sonny joined the U.S. Army, proudly serving his country as a Specialist Four Legal Clerk. Upon his separation from Active Duty, Sonny continued as an active duty reservist until his retirement.

Sonny began his professional career at Compass Bank, while completing his degree in Business Administration and Accounting from Athens State University. He retired from Compass Bank after 30 years of dedicated service as a Mortgage Banking Officer.

For many years Sonny was very active in his many benevolent and charitable organizations. He was a Past Master of Temple Lodge No. 98, member of Tennessee Valley Consistory No. 160, J.E. Harris 33° Club, and Al Azhar Temple No. 195.

Sonny accepted Christ at an early age and joined St. James Primitive Baptist Church where he enjoyed singing in the choir. After several years of failing health, on Monday afternoon, September 29, 2014, Sonny answered the call telling him it was okay to come home, joining his parents Etta and Sylvester.

Those who will miss and forever cherish his memory are his devoted wife of 27 years, Joyce A. Taylor, daughter, Lakia Taylor-Tolliver, goddaughter Monica Carter; and play daughter and granddaughter Jasmine and Taylor Tolliver; sons Phillip Watts, Angelo Matthews, and Michael Crutcher. Sisters Lawanza Gaddis, Laketta Lester, Tracy Robinson, and Lula Toney and brother Anthony Weems.



Brother Edwin O. Taylor (No. 98)
Sunrise September 8, 1956-Sunset September 29, 2014

We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

-2 Corinthians 5:8



Article Submission Guidelines

The Cornerstone Message accepts submissions of articles, flyers, and information of events of general interests to Prince Hall Masons throughout the state of Alabama. *The Cornerstone Message* is published quarterly in the months of April, July, October, and January. Submission of articles and photographs are to be forwarded to the publication's editor via email (cseditor@mwphglal.com). Articles and photographs become property of the publication and the right is reserved to edit and use the articles and photographs as deemed necessary. Deadline for submissions for the next issue of *The Cornerstone Message* is **28 December, 2014**. These articles should include events conducted from **October 2014-December 2014**. Articles are to be submitted with a minimum of one paragraph and using Microsoft Word (Times New Roman 11) and photographs should be in 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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