



# TO BE READ TWICE IN OPEN LODGE



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## OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION NUMBER 18 February 1, 2019

TO: Grand Lodge Officers, Grand Trustees, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and Brothers of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, Jurisdiction of Alabama

### GREETINGS:

*“Black History Month must be more than just a month of remembrance; it should be a tribute to our history and reminder of the work that lies in the months and years ahead.”*

*Marty Meehan*

Another black history month has arrived. It continues to be my sincere hope and prayer that we do not limit ourselves to studying and teaching our history only one month out of the year. We should study and teach our history every month of the year. We have a history to be proud of and we must share it. Our focus should also be on the future of our people. We must plan and prepare for a bright future.

### SELMA MARCH

For the sixth consecutive year and in an effort to be more involved in our communities, to remember our past, and to look to our future, I am calling on the

entire jurisdiction to converge on Selma, Alabama, on Sunday, March 3, 2019, to participate in the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historical walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. I am asking all brothers and sisters to meet at 119 Washington Street, Selma, Alabama 36701, diagonally across from Washington Street Marketplace, at 11:00 a.m. The bridge crossing re-enactment will begin at 2:30 p.m. A large crowd is expected; therefore, I am asking all brothers and sisters to arrive at the designated time. Please bring plenty of water, snacks and lounging chairs as they will be needed, particularly by our elderly brothers and sisters. All brothers are to participate in the March dressed in proper masonic regalia to include a black suit (including the jacket), white shirt and solid black tie. It is very important that we assemble in Selma, Alabama in mass numbers. Each year we have had hundreds of brothers and sisters to attend. Let us do our best to continue to increase our numbers this year. Consider this March as a time to remember for the seasoned brother and a history lesson for the younger brother. I am counting on you to help make this another great success.

### **MEMBERSHIP DATABASE ISSUES**

We are currently experiencing membership database issues. Due to the database issues, all reports that have been mailed to the Grand Lodge Office beginning December 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019 have not been processed by the Grand Lodge Staff; however, all checks have been deposited.

Please be patient with the staff during this time of reconstruction of the membership database system. We are having to re-enter information from as far back as July 2018. To ensure that all reports are accurate, upon receiving your 2019 endowment, burial, registration and assessment reports, please review them carefully.

- a.) Check to see if all brothers in your lodge are on the roll. (All brothers will appear on the roll which displays the address, phone numbers and beneficiary.)
- b.) Check to see if your brothers' endowment, burial, registration and building fund assessment payments are accurate. **Please do not delay checking this information.** If there is an issue, the longer you wait, the more difficult it will be to correct the issue expeditiously.

**Membership cards will not be mailed out until all data has been re-entered into the database.** We are trying to make sure that there are no duplications of membership numbers and that each brother still has the number that he was originally assigned.

Again, please be patient with the staff. We will do all we can to make sure the membership database issues are resolved in a timely manner.

### **REVISED BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS**

At our annual session in July, the body adopted a 2018 revision of the *Book of Constitutions of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama*. The Constitution has been printed and is ready for dissemination. **As I travel to the regional meetings, the Worshipful Master or Secretary of each lodge will have to sign for the lodge's complimentary copy. The complimentary copy is to remain with the lodge at all times. Only the Worshipful Master or Secretary of the lodge may sign for the Constitution.** Individual brothers may purchase a copy at a cost of \$20.00 each. **The Grand Lodge has a copyright on this document; therefore, there will be absolutely no reproducing of the Constitution. Any reproduction of this publication is copyright infringement and punishable by law, as well as, subject to masonic discipline.**

### **DISHONESTY BOND INSURANCE**

As of January 17, 2019, every subordinate lodge in Alabama is covered by a dishonesty bond, which includes the following coverages: \$5,000.00 theft, \$50,000.00 money orders and counterfeit currency, \$15,000.00 deception fraud, and \$15,000.00 virtual currency. The dishonesty bond is currently at no cost to the lodges. If a lodge needs more protection, it can purchase more. In three years, I will evaluate to decide if the Grand Lodge can afford the premium again or pass the expense on to the subordinate lodges. What this means is, if money is stolen or embezzled and the bonding company is contacted, they will seek to prosecute the offender. It also means that the subordinate lodges should have a checks and balances system in place so that the bonding company will pay off.

### **UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND RECOGNITION**

On December 12, 2018, the United Grand Lodge of England officially granted recognition to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama. We are

now placed on the United Grand Lodge of England's roster of recognized grand lodges. This comes as a result of our mutual recognition agreement with the Grand Lodge of Alabama (Caucasian Masons).

### **150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CRUISE**

In the year 2020, this Grand Lodge will be celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is our intent to celebrate this huge milestone in grand style. The Grand Lodge will be setting sail on a 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Cruise immediately following the close of our 150<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Lodge Communication. The cruise will span four days, July 30-August 3, 2020, from Mobile to Cozumel, Mexico. Enclosed with this Official Communication is a separate letter that gives details and contact information concerning the cruise.

### **STATEWIDE RAISING**

Our annual statewide raising will be held at our 149<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Lodge Communication in Birmingham, Alabama. Lodges can bring their Fellowcrafts to the annual communication to be raised on that Tuesday afternoon. It is not mandatory for those lodges that have Fellowcrafts to bring them to the session; however, I am asking for each lodge's support in this endeavor.

### **REGIONAL MEETINGS**

The schedule for 2019 Regional Meetings is as follows:

Saturday, March 2, 2019 – Region #2: District Numbers 2 and 12— Grand District Deputies Lurie Walton (#2) and Richard Wilson (#12) at 10:00 a.m. at Eastern Star Baptist Church, 112 Curl Road, York, Alabama 36925.

Saturday, March 9, 2019 – Region #5: District Numbers 13, 14 and 15—Grand District Deputies Alvin Crawford (#13), Walter Greene (#14), and Kenneth E. Hardy (#15) at 10:00 a.m. at Beulah Baptist Church Family Life Center, 3100 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401.

Saturday, March 23, 2019 – Region #3: District Numbers 5 and 6—Grand District Deputies Rickey Allen (#5) and Billy Morris (#6) at 10:00 a.m. at Saint Peter AME Church, 1277 Blue Springs Street, Clio, Alabama 36017.

Saturday, March 30, 2019 – Region #4: District Numbers 7, 8 and 10— Grand District Deputies Erwin Chambliss (#7), Donald R. Parks (#8), and Edward Cobb (#10) at 10:00 a.m. at New Spirit Missionary Baptist Church, 3303 Dale Avenue, Opelika, Alabama 36801.

Saturday, April 6, 2019 – Region #6: District Number 17—Grand District Deputy Anthony J. Johnson (#17) at 10:00 a.m. at Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association, 6378 Pulaski Pike, Huntsville, Alabama 35810.

Saturday, April 27, 2019 – Region #1: District Numbers 1, 3 and 4—Grand District Deputies Maurice Edwards (#1), Robert Stallworth (#3), and Billy Joe Stallworth (#4) at 10:00 a.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 748 North Bethlehem Road, Greenville, Alabama 36037. **A wreath laying ceremony will be held at 9:00 a.m. for Past Grand Master James T. Gregory.**

**WORSHIPFUL MASTERS, WARDENS AND BROTHERS ARE TO BE PRESENT AT THEIR REGIONAL MEETINGS. EVERY LODGE IS TO BE REPRESENTED.**

### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

- 1.) Please make sure that you mail in your lodge's annual election report.
- 2.) The souvenir journal information for 2019 has been disseminated and is also available on the website. Please pay strict attention to the deadline date. **All subordinate Lodges are REQUIRED to purchase or sell a full-page ad or two half page ads. All Grand Lodge Officers and Grand District Deputies are REQUIRED to purchase a full-page ad.** Let us make this year's souvenir journal the best ever.
- 3.) Addresses and telephone numbers on lodge rolls must be updated at least once per year and as often as needed as members often relocate.
- 4.) When filing a death claim, be sure to mail in the **original death certificate** along with the Endowment/Burial Claim. Please notate if the family wishes to have the original copy of the death certificate returned to them and we will return it after review.

5.) Brothers should not call the office for matters that can be handled by the Worshipful Master or the Secretary.

6.) Brothers who reinstate and demit must always reinstate to the lodge that they were members of when suspended and then demit to the lodge of their choice. If a Brother's lodge no longer exists, he is to be referred to his Grand District Deputy to help in completing the paperwork to get him on another lodge's roll.

7.) Brothers who reach exemption status are exempt from endowment dues only. When requesting exemption status on a brother, please complete an Endowment Dues Exemption Application and mail it to the office. If the brother qualifies, you will receive a letter stating that he has been approved. If the brother does not qualify, you will receive a letter stating when he is eligible.

8.) When you renew your license plates please remember to purchase a Prince Hall Grand Lodge license plate. A donation of \$41.25 of the \$50.00 fee will go to the Prince Hall Legacy Foundation for scholarship purposes. We should be proud to show the world that we are Prince Hall Masons.

9.) Please continue to make use of our Traveling Again Reclamation Program (TARP). It has been extended until July 31, 2019.

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

\$20.00 reinstatement fee  
\$25.00 taxes  
\$25.00 registration  
\$50.00 assessment—**Have two years to pay the remaining \$150.00**  
**\$120.00 TOTAL (\$270.00 to pay in full at once)**

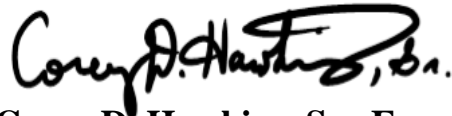
Members suspended **after** June, 2002, can reinstate by paying the following:

\$20.00 reinstatement fee  
\$25.00 taxes  
\$25.00 registration  
\$50.00 assessment—**Have two years to pay the remaining \$200.00**  
**\$120.00 TOTAL (\$320.00 to pay in full at once)**

**The two years to pay the assessment will be closely monitored by me. Those who do not pay the assessment will be suspended again for non-payment. If a Brother had already made payments on his assessment to the Grand Lodge he will be credited for his payment(s).**

**10.) Any current or reinstating member who would like to receive a membership certificate may send a check or money order in the amount of \$5.00 to the Grand Lodge Office along with a note requesting a certificate.**

**In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Grand Lodge to be affixed and the same to be attested by the Grand Secretary on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February 2019, A. L. 6019**

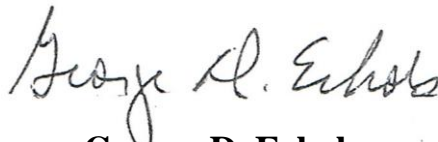


**Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.  
Most Worshipful Grand Master  
of the**

**Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge  
Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama**



Attested:



**George D. Echols  
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary  
of the**

**Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge  
Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama**