



# To BE DISSEMINATED TO THE CRAFT



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## OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION NUMBER 22 May 18, 2020

**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:

*“For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”*

**Mark 11:23-24**

This world, this country in particular, has been stricken by a deadly predator referred to as coronavirus (COVID-19). This pandemic is currently raging throughout this state, the United States, and the world, taking lives by the masses, and affecting this world, in some way, forever. This jurisdiction has not been exempted from the destructive path of COVID-19. Recently, Brother Ray Sanders, Worshipful Master of Hiram Lodge No. 3, as well as, Grand Chaplain for the Mizpah Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star, succumbed to this deadly virus. Let

us keep the Sanders Family in our prayers. There are other members from throughout the jurisdiction who have contracted this deadly virus but, because of God's grace and mercy, were able to overcome. We must remain attentive to our practice of safety procedures disseminated by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). Regardless of age, color, and health issues, anyone can fall victim to COVID-19.

During these uncertain times we must continue to keep our hands in the hand of our Lord and Savior. Through it all, we will make it. His grace and mercy will see us through. Please continuously check on the well-being of brothers of the craft and sisters of the Order of Eastern Star. We must remain prayerful and have faith that God Almighty will remove the COVID-19 mountain.

On Tuesday, March 17, 2020, this jurisdiction suffered a severe blow with the demise of Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden, Brother Matthew Hardy, Jr. Right Worshipful Hardy was a pillar within this organization and within his community. He was a man, friend and brother who led by example. Brother Hardy's friendship and melodious voice will truly be missed. May God rest his soul. Let us keep the Hardy Family in our prayers during their time of bereavement.

I am so pleased with the turnout of brothers and sisters who participated in the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historical walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. We had hundreds of brothers and sisters who attended on March 1, 2020. Thanks to all of those who participated. I look forward to many, many more attending and participating next year.

### **CANCELLATION OF THE 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNICATION**

After candid conversation with the elected and appointed officers of this Grand Lodge about the spread of COVID-19 and the well-being of the craft, I have come to the conclusion that the 150<sup>th</sup> (one hundred forty-second since consolidation) Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama, scheduled to convene on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, at 8:30 a.m., at The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel and Spa, 26 North Royal Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602, is hereby cancelled. All activities that would have taken place at our Annual Communication are rescheduled for our Annual Communication in July of 2021. Those who made reservations with the hotel in Mobile can contact them at 1-866-316-5957 or 1-800-922-3298 to cancel and receive your refund for one night's lodging. Please wait approximately two weeks

from the date of this Official Communication to allow the hotel time to process the cancellation of the Grand Lodge's Annual Communication.

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

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Carnival Cruise Line has cancelled the cruise from Mobile, Alabama to Cozumel, Mexico scheduled for July 30 – August 3, 2020. For those who made payments on the cruise, you may receive a refund or credit towards another cruise by contacting Traelle Poindexter of Amazing Vacations 24/7 by email at amazingvacation247@gmail.com or by telephone at 989-482-1707.

### **SOUVENIR JOURNAL**

All ads sold for the 150<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication Souvenir Journal will be used in our souvenir journal for 2021. The Grand Lodge office will not process refunds. Thank you for your continued support of the souvenir journal.

### **GRAND LODGE REGISTRATION FEE**

Individual brothers who have paid the registration fee for masonic year 2019-2020 will be credited in the registration department for the 2020-2021 masonic year.

### **SUSPENSION OF ALL MASONIC ACTIVITIES REMAINS IN EFFECT**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all masonic activities (meetings of any kind, fundraising events, community service, banquets, degree work, etc.) of all masonic bodies, within the Jurisdiction of Alabama, remain cancelled until further notice. Lodges can; however, conduct essential business (i.e., payment of bills, voting on candidates, reinstatements, demits, etc.) via conference call or by video conference without a formal opening of the lodge.

### **NO ELECTIONS TO BE HELD**

There will be no elections of officers in subordinate lodges until June of 2021. All officers of subordinate lodges elected and installed in 2019 will remain in office for the ensuing year.

### **VIRTUAL ST. JOHN'S DAY**

Each district will be hosting a virtual St. John's Day on Sunday, June 28, 2020. Please contact your Grand District Deputy for more information. I encourage each of you to participate in large numbers.

**GRAND LODGE OFFICE CLOSED TO APPOINTMENTS and WALK-INS**

To eliminate risk of exposure to our employees, the Office of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. and A. M. of Alabama remains closed to appointments and walk-ins until further notice. The business of the Grand Lodge will continue to be transacted via U.S. Mail, email, telephone, and/or facsimile, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

**CANCELLATION of the 2020 PHA CLASSIC WEEKEND**

Effective immediately, the Annual Prince Hall Americanism Classic Weekend is hereby cancelled. We will resume this festive weekend in 2021.

**GRAND LODGE TAX and ENDOWMENT DUES**

**PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT EACH LODGE SEND ITS GRAND LODGE TAX TO THE GRAND SECRETARY BY DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> AND BY MAY 30<sup>th</sup>. All Worshipful Masters of all lodges are requested to send all Grand Lodge taxes to R. W. Anthony J. Johnson, Grand Secretary, Post Office Box 6468, Huntsville, Alabama 35813-6468, as soon as possible.**

Also, be sure to send all endowment reports to our Endowment Office Supervisor, Mrs. Kathy Dunnigan-Taylor, Post Office Box 10504, Birmingham, Alabama 35202-0504, each month—but not later than the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

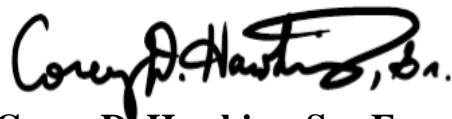
- 1.) Do not send cash to the Grand Lodge office for any transaction; send checks or money orders. Cash will not be accepted.
  
- 2.) All checks and money orders should be made out to Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama (MWPHGL of AL).
  
- 3.) To enter the Alabama School of Masonry (masonic college) on our website, you must enter the password XXXXXXXXXX.
  
- 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.) 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.

6.) 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.

Again, please check on the well-being of our brothers and sisters. We must support one another more than ever. Last, but certainly not least, stay strong Grand Lodge of Alabama! May God bless and keep you in His care!

**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 18<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020, A. L. 6020**



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

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



Attested:



**Anthony J. Johnson  
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary  
of the**

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