



THE CORNERSTONE

M E S S A G E

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

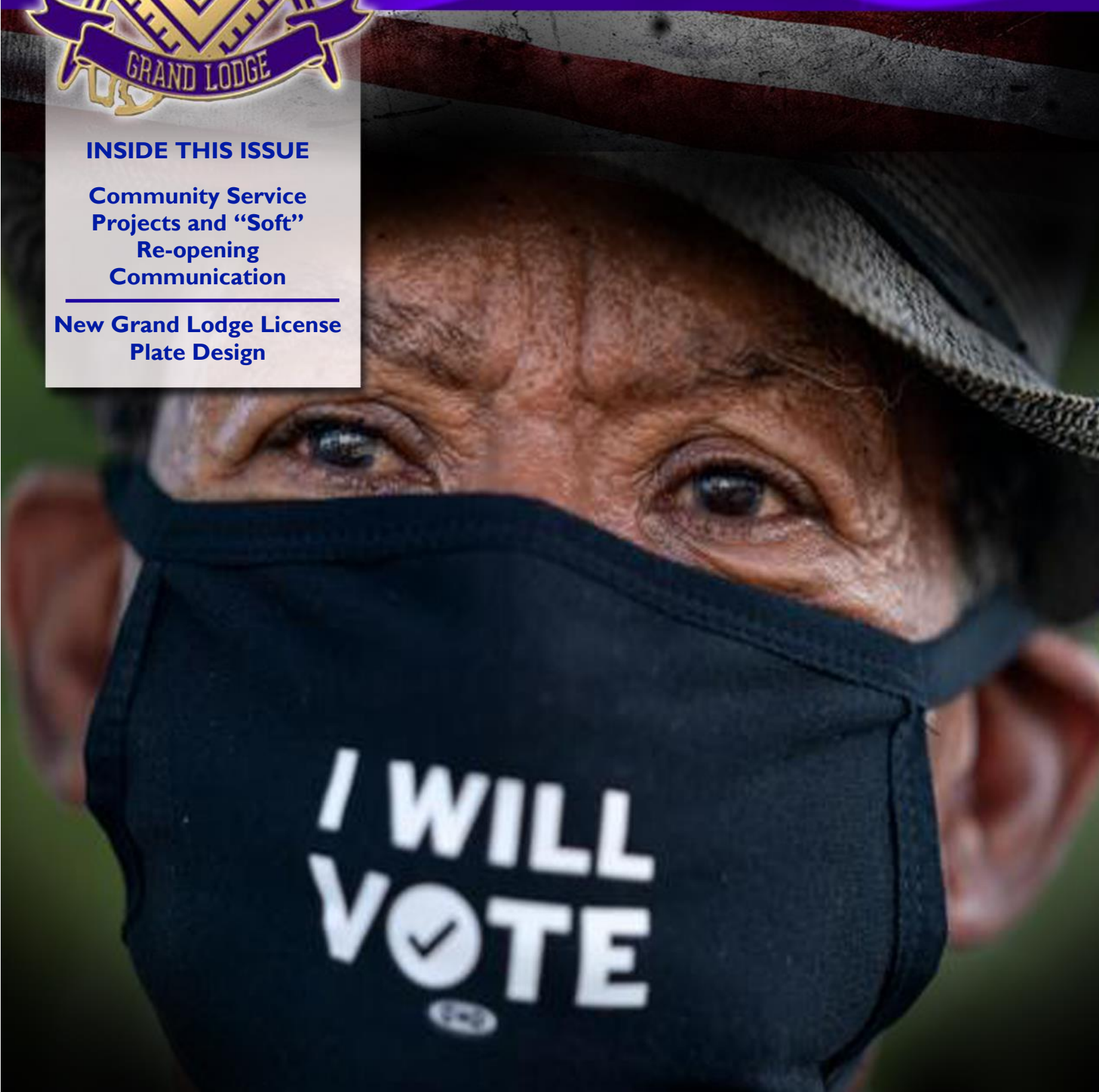
VOLUME VIII, ISSUE IV

OCTOBER 2020

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Projects and "Soft"
Re-opening
Communication

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Plate Design



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THE GRAND MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD



*When the storms of life are raging,
Stand by me,
When the storms of life are raging,
Stand by me,
When the world is tossing me
Like a ship upon the sea;
Thou who rulest wind and water,
Stand by me*

Charles Albert Tindley

father told me to join the lodge and gave me a petition. Because of his urging, I became a proud fourth generation Prince Hall Mason. For that I am eternally grateful. Hats off to Daddy for the life he lived, his gift of freemasonry and the lives he touched. If I could just be half the man that he was then my living shall not be in vain. Thank you to all who attended Daddy's homegoing celebration. Also, thank you for the expressions of condolences, words of comfort and tokens of love.

On November 3rd, the American people will participate in the democratic process and cast their ballots for President of the United States. Here in the state of Alabama, we will also be casting another important vote, for that of U.S. Senator. I urge each of you to uphold your civic duty, exercise your right as a U.S. citizen, and go to the polls and vote. This election is very important during these turbulent times. We must vote! We must provide transportation to the polls. We must educate others about the voting process. Please do not allow this opportunity to pass you by. Get involved! **GO VOTE!**

Please remember to stay safe. Continue to follow the Center for Disease Control's guidelines. Wear your masks. We will beat this pandemic! We will win this battle!

In the words of famed songwriter Charles Albert Tindley:

*In the midst of tribulations,
Stand by me,
In the midst of tribulations,
Stand by me,*

*When the hosts of hell assail,
And my strength begins to fail,
Thou who never lost a battle,
Stand by me*

May God's grace and neverending love continue to be a blessing to you, to our country, and to our beloved Grand Lodge.

Faternally,

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.

Most Worshipful Grand Master

Front Cover:
Get involved! GO VOTE!



RW Herman "Jerome" Glover (50)
Publication Editor

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

RECLAMATION DRIVE (TARP)!



Message from the Editor

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

While summer has come to an end again, the mornings are now a little cooler and the days are getting shorter. Fall is in the air and we are still dealing with the rapidly changing reality of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of us have been utilizing virtual platforms like Zoom, Facebook Live, and Go to Meeting to keep up with our brothers, discuss lodge business and activities. While these solutions remain far

from normal, we must remember that our approach to the upcoming holiday season will also need to be different for our usual community service events.

Grand Master Hawkins has issued his Community Service Projects and "Soft" Re-opening of the Jurisdiction of Alabama statement which is also enclosed in this issue of *The Cornerstone Newsletter*, and we must follow it and all CDC guidelines to prevent us all from spreading more than holiday joy and cheer. Please remember, the only way to combat the increasing numbers is to use face coverings correctly, social distancing, and staying home when you are sick. Therefore, please do your part to protect yourself

and others from the spread of this virus.

I look forward to seeing all your SAFE community service events submitted for the next issue of *The Cornerstone Newsletter* and **GO VOTE!**

As always, I encourage all subordinate lodges to continue to support *The Cornerstone Message* and show all readers of this newsletter what your lodges are doing in 2020 to add to the mission of making sure Prince Hall Masonry is at the forefront in the state of Alabama.

- RW Herman "Jerome" Glover
Publication Editor

Reclamation Drive (TARP)

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

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

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

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

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

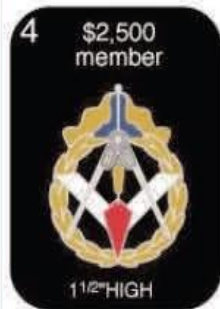
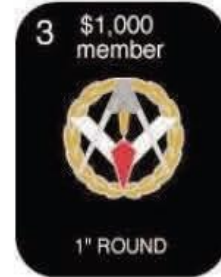
TARP serves a two-fold purpose: (1.) It gives suspended Brothers a more affordable means of reinstating and (2.) It gives dying lodges a final opportunity to salvage their existence by increasing their numbers before being forced to close or merge. Our Grand Master has extended a challenge for the members of this jurisdiction to go out and reclaim our lost Brothers. TARP will be in effect through July 31, 2021.

Support the Temple Renovation

Most

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

Display your
support
for the temple
renovation!



SUPPORT THE PRINCE HALL LEGACY FOUNDATION OF ALABAMA, INC.



PURCHASE YOUR ALABAMA PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE LICENSE PLATE

YOUR PLATE MAY BE DISPLAYED UPON THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF VEHICLES



- private passenger automobiles
- pickup trucks
- motorcycles
- pleasure motor vehicles (i.e., recreational vehicles)



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

<https://revenue.alabama.gov/motor-vehicle/license-plate-information/generic-specialty-plates/prince-hall-grand-lodge/>
(You may purchase the MWPGL of AL Tags Anytime, You do not have to wait for your renewal Month!)

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



Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq., KYGCH, KCT, 33°, Grand Master

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Date: October 8, 2020

To: All Members of the Prince Hall Family of the Jurisdiction of Alabama

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

Re: Community Service Projects and “Soft” Re-opening of the Jurisdiction of Alabama

Greetings:

On March 17, 2020, I issued a directive cancelling all masonic functions (meetings of any kind, fundraisers, community service, banquets, etc.) of all masonic bodies, within the Jurisdiction of Alabama due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The directive was necessary due to the declaration of a National State of Emergency by the President of the United States and the recommendations issued by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Alabama Department of Health (ADH).

After a lot of prayer and consultation with many of the Grand Lodge Officers I have decided to issue the following:

Effective immediately, all masonic bodies within the Jurisdiction of Alabama, are hereby allowed to participate in community service projects. We have a very important election fast approaching and as a Prince Hall Family we cannot sit on the sidelines and watch it go by. We must get involved. While it is not our position to endorse any candidates, it is our obligation as Prince Hall Masons, to help ensure that citizens of this country, exercise their rights and participate in the electoral process. We must help assist those within our communities to get to the polls. The reinstatement of community service will allow us the opportunity to plan voter’s transportation projects and to assist in other ways, as well as, will allow us to reapply our efforts to serve those in need within our communities. **CDC guidelines are to be followed while participating in community service projects. Participants must wear masks and practice social distancing.**

Also, as of January 1, 2021, the Jurisdiction of Alabama will engage in a “soft” re-opening of masonic functions. During this “soft” re-opening, lodges will have the option of meeting in person or may opt not to meet. **REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE LODGES OPT TO MEET IN PERSON OR NOT, ALL LODGES ARE STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OBLIGATIONS TO THE GRAND LODGE.** If lodges do opt to meet in person, they must conform to the following mandatory stipulations:

- * Can only meet once a month
- * The meeting can only last a maximum of one hour
- * Must wear masks and gloves at all times
- * Must have temperature checked, using a non-contact, digital thermometer, and not have a fever to enter the lodge hall
- * Must meet in a hall or facility that will accommodate social distancing
- * Air filters in the hvac units where lodges meet must be replaced.
- * Hand sanitizer must be readily available
- * Antibacterial soap must be placed in all lodge restrooms
- * Meeting places must be sanitized prior to each meeting
- * If the facility where meetings are held reaches social distancing capacity, then no others are to be admitted
- * No one with COVID-19 or any of the symptoms are allowed to attend
- * Anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 must receive two negative tests prior to attending a meeting
- * Degree work can only be performed in special circumstances and by dispensation from the Grand Master
- * A member who has had contact with someone who has been recently diagnosed with COVID-19 cannot attend a meeting for fourteen (14) days from the date of contact
- * There will be no large gatherings (banquets, statewide meetings, etc.)
- * Worshipful Masters are responsible for their lodges’ conformance to these mandatory stipulations

THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE MANDATORY STIPULATIONS. NONCONFORMANCE TO THE MANDATORY STIPULATIONS WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

According to the CDC, people of any age with the following conditions are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19:

- * Cancer
- * Chronic kidney disease
- * COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- * Immunocompromised state (weakened Immune system) from solid organ transplant
- * Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 or higher)
- * Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- * Sickle cell disease
- * Type 2 diabetes mellitus

According to the CDC, people with the following conditions might be at an increased risk of severe illness from Covid-19:

- * Asthma (moderate to severe)
- * Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain)
- * Cystic fibrosis
- * Hypertension or high blood pressure
- * Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines
- * Neurologic conditions, such as dementia
- * Liver disease
- * Pregnancy
- * Pulmonary fibrosis (having damaged or scarred lung tissues)
- * Smoking
- * Thalassemia (a type of blood disorder)
- * Type 1 diabetes mellitus

ANY MEMBERS WHO SUFFER FROM ANY OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CONDITIONS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED NOT TO ATTEND MEETINGS.

In a continued attempt to eliminate external 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. 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.

The immediate reinstatement of participation in community service projects and the “soft” re-opening of the jurisdiction as of January 1, 2021, remain in effect until upgraded to a “full” re-opening, unless otherwise rescinded in part or in its entirety. Take notice and govern yourselves accordingly!

Fraternally,



Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.

Most Worshipful Grand Master



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

<u>Name</u>	<u>College/University</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Taylor Moore-Jones	Samford University	\$1,400.00
Chaeli White	Wallace Community College	\$1,400.00
Zamaya Arnold	Enterprise State Community College	\$1,400.00
Jazmyne Isaac	University of Alabama	\$1,400.00
Aumaria Lindsey	University of Alabama	\$1,400.00
Autumn Hawkins	Troy University	\$1,400.00
Cole Cooney	Troy University	\$1,400.00
Keyshauna Bryant	Auburn University at Montgomery	\$1,400.00
	Alabama A. & M. University	\$5,000.00
	Alabama State University	\$5,000.00
	Tuskegee University	\$5,000.00
	Miles College	\$2,500.00
	Stillman College	\$2,500.00
	Talladega College	\$2,500.00

CAST YOUR VOTE

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

absentee

election

policy

ballot

freedom

politics

booth

government

polls

campaign

issues

president

candidate

laws

race

civic

majority

register

counting

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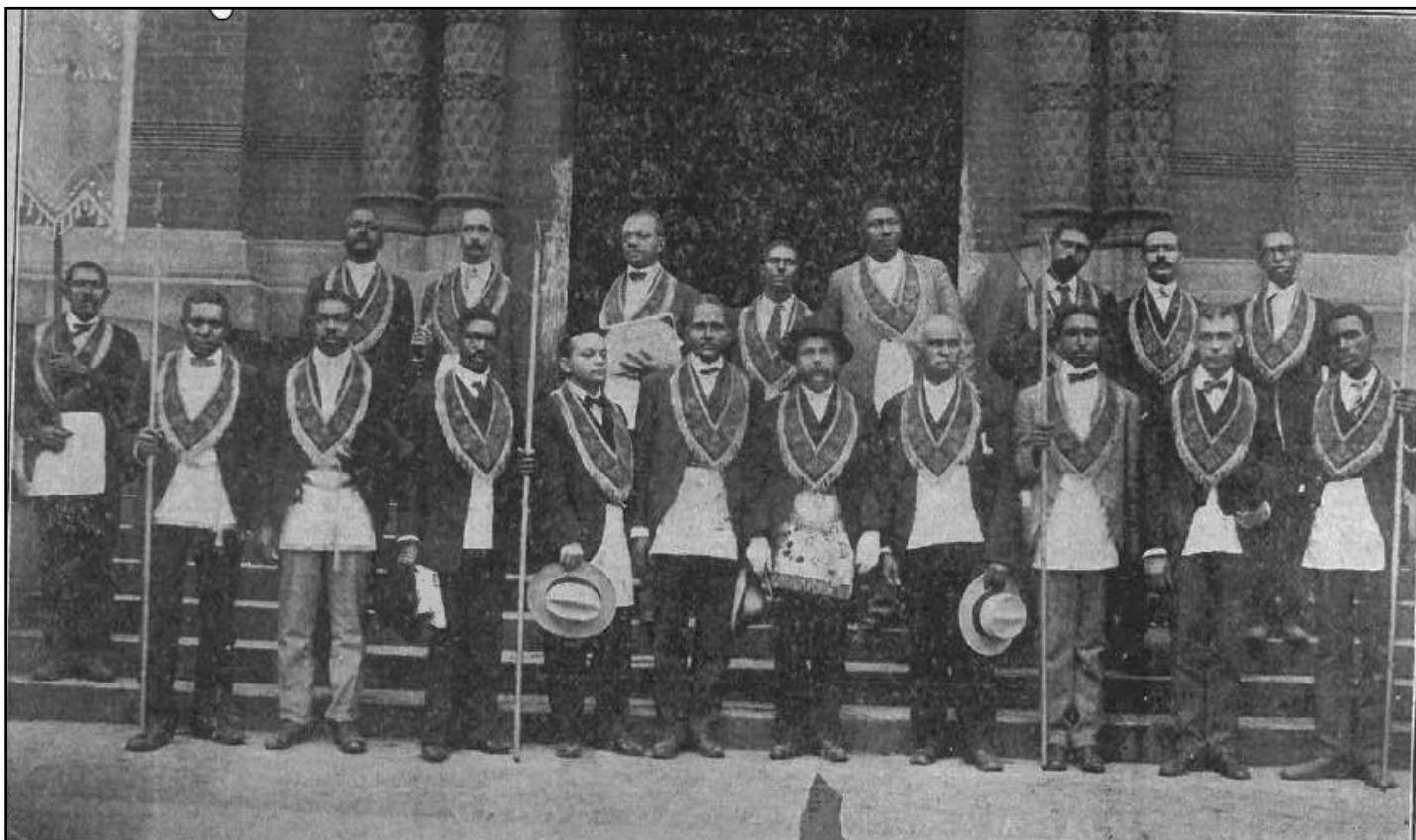
results

debate

platform

term

A Blast from the Past



Grand Master H.C. Binford, Sr. and Grand Lodge Officers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. Masons, Birmingham, AL, 1903.



"I have said this before, and I will say it again. The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democracy."

John Lewis

From Whence We've Come...

Public Service is in our DNA

Locked within the obligation and tenets of Freemasonry is the concept of fulfilling one's *civic duty*. While it may be debated by many in regard to what exactly civic duty entails, it would behoove the reader to inquire of the duties of a Master Mason to be an agreeable subject with his government and fulfill his duty in the defense and support of his country of origin.

Civic duty entails how Freemasons view and engage their own civil society. As Prince Hall Freemasons in Alabama, civic duty is engrained in the DNA of our *fraternity*. The main strands of DNA in civic duty have taken the form of ensuring that the right to vote is not only fulfilled but also the assistance in protecting that inalienable right from being infringed by his fellow American, but also the government itself.

From our earliest of beginnings, PGM Simon S. Ashe, served as alderman in Mobile. PGM R.B. Thomas served in both law enforcement, judge and an attorney (officer of the court) both before and after slavery. During this same period, Past Grand Secretary H.V. Cashin would serve honorably as a member of the Alabama House of Representatives, an attorney and a City Councilman. Meanwhile, we would see a host of members that have filled the halls of the Alabama State House, court rooms and other offices in public service.

Party affiliation has never been monolithic within our membership. Republicans, Democrats and Independents have filled the ranks within this Grand Old Order. In fact, our membership has filled the leadership ranks of Alabama's Republican and Democratic parties, on both the national and state levels.

From the first members of the fraternity within the state of Alabama, the object necessity has been to ensure that our constituent communities have jobs, access to the ballot box and also to provide public service in the government. This strong commitment has not changed nor will it.

From PGM B.F.D Franklin, to Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq., the commitment to ensuring civic participation in all levels of society remains at the forefront of our actions. The Grand Lodge building's walls serve as an edifice to both fraternal and civic duty. Fraternally supporting the needs of the craft. Equally, in civic duty, ensuring that our community has a silent asset in the membership of the men that adorn themselves with lambskin aprons.

This upcoming 2020 election is an opportunity for each and every Freemason within this jurisdiction to renew yet another commitment to the obligation that each of us has taken in the requirement to our duty to the nation in our civic action.

Contributor — RW L. Ken Collins, II
Grand Lodge Historian

Coping with Stress

Pandemics can be Stressful

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic may be stressful for people. Fear and anxiety about a new disease and what could happen can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. Public health actions, such as social distancing, can make people feel isolated and lonely and can increase stress and anxiety. However, these actions are necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Coping with stress in a healthy way will make you, the people you care about, and your community stronger.

Stress during an infectious disease outbreak can sometimes cause the following:

- Fear and worry about your own health and the health of your loved ones, your financial situation or job, or loss of support services you rely on.
- Changes in sleep or eating patterns.
- Difficulty sleeping or concentrating.
- Worsening of chronic health problems.
- Worsening of mental health conditions.
- Increased use of tobacco, and/or alcohol and other substances.

Take care of your mental health

You may experience increased stress during this pandemic. Fear and anxiety can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions.

Everyone reacts differently to stressful situations

How you respond to stress during the COVID-19 pandemic can depend on your background, your social support from family or friends, your financial situation, your health and emotional background, the community you live in, and many other factors. The changes that can happen because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ways we try to contain the spread of the virus can affect anyone.

Take care of yourself and your community

Taking care of your friends and your family can be a stress reliever, but it should be balanced with care for yourself. Helping others cope with their stress, such as by providing social support, can also make your community stronger. During times of increased social distancing, people can still maintain social connections and care for their mental health. Phone calls or video chats can help you and your loved ones feel socially connected, less lonely, or isolated.

Know the facts to help reduce stress

Knowing the facts about COVID-19 and stopping the spread of rumors can help reduce stress and stigma. Understanding the risk to yourself and people you care about can help you connect with others and make an outbreak less stressful.

Take care of your mental health

Mental health is an important part of overall health and wellbeing. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It may also affect how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices during an emergency.

People with pre-existing mental health conditions or substance use disorders may be particularly vulnerable in an emergency. Mental health conditions (such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia) affect a person's thinking, feeling, mood or behavior in a way that influences their ability to relate to others and function each day. These conditions may be situational (short-term) or long-lasting (chronic). People with preexisting mental health conditions should continue with their treatment and be aware of new or worsening symptoms. If you think you have new or worse symptoms, call your healthcare provider.

Call your healthcare provider if stress gets in the way of your daily activities for several days in a row. Free and confidential resources can also help you or a loved one connect with a skilled, trained counselor in your area.

Suicide

Different life experiences affect a person's risk for suicide. For example, suicide risk is higher among people who have experienced violence, including child abuse, bullying, or sexual violence. Feelings of isolation, depression, anxiety, and other emotional or financial stresses are known to raise the risk for suicide. People may be more likely to experience these feelings during a crisis like a pandemic.

However, there are ways to protect against suicidal thoughts and behaviors. For example, support from family and community, or feeling connected, and having access to in-person or virtual counseling or therapy can help with suicidal thoughts and behavior, particularly during a crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source—Center for Disease Control and Prevention

\$ Dollars and Sense \$

Money Management

Protect Yourself from Credit Repair Scams

Every day, companies promise consumers who have poor credit histories that, for a fee, they will clean up their credit report so they can get a car loan, a home mortgage, insurance or even a job. The truth is, these companies cannot deliver an improved credit report using the tactics they promote. It's illegal to remove accurate, negative information from your credit report. So after you pay them hundreds or thousands of dollars in up-front fees, you are left with the same credit report and a lot less money.

Attorneys at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) say they have never seen a legitimate credit repair operation. The fact is, there is no quick fix for bad credit. The only legitimate credit repair starts with you – and it takes time and a conscious effort to pay your debts.

Recognizing a Credit Repair Scam

If you see a credit repair offer, here's how to tell if the company behind it is up to no good:

- The company wants you to pay for credit repair services before they provide any services. Under the Credit Repair Organizations Act, credit repair companies cannot require you to pay until they have completed their promised services.

- The company does not tell you your rights and what you can do yourself for free.
- The company recommends that you do not contact any of the three major national credit reporting companies directly.
- The company tells you they can get rid of most or all of the negative credit information in your credit report, even if that information is accurate and current.
- The company suggests that you try to invent a "new" credit identity – and then a new credit report – by applying for an Employer Identification Number to use instead of your Social Security number.
- The company advises you to dispute all the information in your credit report, regardless of its accuracy or timeliness.

To file a complaint or to get free information on consumer issues, visit www.ftc.gov or call toll-free 877- FTC-HELP.

Article adapted from "Credit Repair: How to Help Yourself" at

www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/credit/cre13.shtm.

Attorneys at the FTC say that they have never seen a legitimate credit repair operation. Remember, there is no quick fix to bad credit.

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

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:

Brother Bobby Singleton



Brother Bobby Singleton

Brother Bobby Singleton is a native of Greensboro, Alabama. Singleton is a member of the Alabama State Senate, representing District 24. Senator Singleton is serving his fourth term in the Senate. He was elected on January 25, 2005, to fill the unexpired term of former Senator Charles Steele. Prior to that, he served in the Alabama House of Representatives from 2003 to 2005. He has served as the past Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus, and currently serves as Senate Minority Leader. Singleton ran for re-election to the Alabama State Senate to represent District 24. Singleton won in the general election on November 6, 2018. Singleton's current term ends on November 7, 2022.

Senator Singleton currently sits on the following committees: Agriculture and Conservation, Banking and Insurance, Finance and Taxation Education, Judiciary, and Tourism. He also is a member on the Alcohol Beverage Study Commission, Alabama Public Pension Committee, Housing Finance Authority Legislative Oversight Committee, Joint Legislative Prison Committee, the License Plates Legislative Oversight Committee, Joint Legislative Task Force for Budget Reform, and Permanent Legislative Committee on Reapportionment.

Recently, he was appointed by Governor Kay Ivey to serve on the Gaming Commission, as well as the Alabama Healthy Food Financing Initiative Study Commission. Additionally, he serves on the Community Action Board of West Alabama.

Senator Singleton holds a B.S. Degree in Criminal Justice from Alabama State University and a Juris Doctorate from Miles College. He works as a consultant.

His hobbies include hunting, traveling, and fishing.

Senator Singleton is a member of Greenleaf Missionary Baptist Church, in Greensboro, Alabama, Paragon Lodge No. 26, Abraham Consistory No. 257, a 33° mason, Class of 2019 and a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Brother Singleton is also a 2019 inductee of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama's Hall of Fame.

We are proud to have Senator Bobby Singleton as a member of the Craft. We encourage him to keep up the great work.

Achievements

NCAA hires Brother Derrick Gragg

On August 19, 2020, the NCAA announced that its president, Mark Emmert, had selected Dr. Derrick Gragg, an accomplished leader with more than two decades of experience in college athletics administration, as the NCAA's new senior vice president for inclusion, education, and community engagement.

President Emmert stated, "Derrick brings exceptional experience and knowledge to the NCAA, and we look forward to his strong leadership around diversity, inclusion and equity policies and procedures for the Association," Emmert said. "As a former FBS football student-athlete and longtime athletics administrator in roles in many segments of Division I, Derrick understands the intercollegiate landscape and will be able to formulate relationships where the NCAA can work with constituencies to build more inclusive environments, which will enhance the experiences of student-athletes, coaches and athletics administrators. We welcome him and his family to Indianapolis."



Bro. Derrick Gragg

As senior vice president and chief diversity and inclusion officer at the NCAA, Bro. Gragg is the national office ambassador promoting the Association's core values of diversity and inclusion. In his role, he leads internal and external diversity and inclusion operations, while supervising national office staff in the inclusion, education, and community engagement division.

Before joining the NCAA staff, Bro. Gragg was an athletics director for seven years at the University of Tulsa, where he guided the athletics department to excellence. His other career stints include a role as athletics director at Eastern Michigan University; working in various athletics leadership roles at the University of Arkansas, including deputy athletics director; and additional athletics experiences at the University of Michigan, University of Missouri, and Vanderbilt University.

"As a former student-athlete and 27-year intercollegiate athletics administrator, I have dedicated my entire career to the betterment of young people," Bro. Gragg said. "During this historic era in our country, I look forward to supporting our student-athletes, engaging coaches and staff members, as well as working with our membership to identify ways to ensure that diversity, equity, and inclusion are reflected in all levels. I am honored to be entrusted with this responsibility and look forward to identifying ways to help unite our 1,100 institutions to make a significant impact on higher education and our country as a whole."

The Huntsville, Alabama, native and author earned his undergraduate degree at Vanderbilt, where he was also a scholar football athlete. He earned his master's degree at Wayne State University and his doctorate at Arkansas. Brother Gragg is a proud member of Morning Star Lodge No. 50, Huntsville, Alabama, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated.

Bro. Greg Griffin, Jr. Appointed as Assistant United States Attorney

Bro. Greg Griffin, Jr., was recently appointed as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama in the Criminal Division. Before joining the United States Attorney's Office, Bro. Griffin served the citizens of Montgomery, AL as a Deputy District Attorney for the 15th Judicial Circuit. Before that, he was an Associate Attorney at the law firm of Joe M. Reed and Associates. Bro. Griffin, Jr. is the son of Montgomery County Circuit Judge and Brother Greg Griffin, Sr. and Mrs. Debra M. Griffin. Bro. Griffin, Jr. is a Marshall Brennan Fellow of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Cum Laude Graduate of Morehouse College, First Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserves, member of Abraham Lodge No. 267, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, and an Eagle Scout.



Bro. Greg Griffin, Jr.

Bro. Rontario Hicks Honored by Toastmasters



Major General David Wilson (left) presenting Bro. Rontario Hicks (right) the Distinguished Toastmaster Award

On September 20, 2020, Brother Rontario Hicks was honored with receiving two awards from the Toastmasters Organization; Division Director of the Year Award presented by District 77 which is a District level award, and the Distinguished Toastmaster Award (DTM) presented by Toastmaster International Headquarters. Bro. Hicks was awarded the Division Director of the Year award, which is the highest award for his leadership in District 77, which covers the states of Mississippi, Alabama, and the northern area of Florida. This award is given out at the end of each year to the members within the organization that exhibited the highest leadership potential out of all divisions within District 77 - Region 8. Also, Brother Hicks received the Distinguished Toastmaster award, which is the highest personal education award within Toastmasters Organization Headquarters, which are completed by only 2% of its 350,000 plus members. Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. Headquartered in Englewood, Colorado the organization

membership exceeds 364,000 in more than 16,400 clubs in 145 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators, and leaders. Toastmasters is the largest provider of dynamic, high-value experiential communication, leadership, and public speaking skills development in the world used by more than half of Fortune 500 companies to develop their employees and leaders. Bro. Hicks is also a very active member of Morning Star Lodge No. 50.

Obituaries

Brothers Called Home by the Grand Architect

Bro.. Parker Lee Hawkins was born June 30, 1940 to the late Robert Lee Hawkins and Barbara Parker Hawkins in Leighton, Alabama. Parker departed this life Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at Helen Keller Hospital.

He confessed Christ as his personal Savior at an early age and joined Mt. New Home Missionary Baptist Church, where he remained a very faithful and dedicated member until his demise.

Bro. Hawkins was a 1959 graduate of Leighton Training School. He matriculated to Alabama A&M University and later graduated from Selma University with a Bachelor's Degree.

He joined the U.S. Army on April 6, 1965 and was honorably discharged February 14, 1967. He was a recipient of the National Defense Service Medal.

Bro. Hawkins was retired from Reynolds Metal Company after 35 years of service.

Bro. Hawkins was a 52-year member of Hopewell Lodge No. 198, a subordinate of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama, where he served as Senior Warden. He was a 2018 inductee into the Grand Lodge Hall of Fame. He was also a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 8640, where he served as Post Adjutant.

Bro. Hawkins served as a deacon at Mt. New Home M.B. Church and was a longtime member of the Laymen. He served as Treasurer for the Muscle Shoals Baptist Association for 36 years. He also served Mt. New Home M.B. Church as Treasurer, Sunday School Teacher and Trustee.

Bro. Hawkins was united in Holy Matrimony to Diann Coffey Hawkins on June 30, 1967. From this union, three children were born. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

Bro. Hawkins was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Barbara Hawkins and one brother, Robert Carson Hawkins.

Bro. Hawkins leaves to cherish his memories, his loving and devoted wife of 53 years: Diann Hawkins; sons: Cedric Derrell Hawkins (Evangeline), Leighton, AL, Corey Demond Hawkins, Birmingham, AL, Craig DeWayne Hawkins, Nashville, TN; five grandchildren: Cedric Derricus Hawkins, Celena Denise Hawkins, Carissa Dawn Hawkins, Corey Demond Hawkins, Jr. and Autumn Denise Hawkins; three great grandchildren: Jameria Ricks, Jayceon Ricks and Nahla Hawkins; two brothers: Horace Cooper Hawkins, Sr., Morrow, GA and Al Hawkins (Patricia), Columbia, TN; one sister: Wyominia Croone (Tommie), Leighton, AL; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



***Bro. Parker Lee Hawkins
June 30, 1940—Aug. 4, 2020***

Bro. Charlie Pierce was born August 13th, 1915, to Charlie Piece, Sr., and Winnie Pierce in Cecil, Alabama. His education journey began in Shelby County and Birmingham Baptist Bible College.

In 1941, Bro. Pierce became one in holy matrimony with Henrietta L. Anthony, and together, they raised nine children. They were active members of Zion Star Missionary Baptist Church, where Bro. Pierce served on the Deacon Board for over 60 years.

Bro. Pierce entered the workforce as a butcher and later, a truck driver. He maintained a long history at Wimbley Thomas Wholesale Hardware Company, where he retired as a supervisor. Because Bro. Pierce had an entrepreneurial spirit and lifestyle, he opened a local convenience store with two of his sons, where he was affectionately known as Papa Charlie. He was also a long time public servant leader, in which he received several awards for outstanding community service.

For 105 years, God blessed Bro. Pierce with a long, fruitful life. He made his transition from Earth to Heaven on Friday, September 18, 2020, with his daughter, Sandra, and granddaughter, Nikita by his side. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Henrietta, two daughters, Phyllis Jean Pierce and Dorothy Louise Anthony, and two sons, Curtis Ray Anthony and Robert Lee Anthony.

Loving memories will forever be cherished by his five children, Roger (Leonette) Anthony of Tacoma, WA, Charles (Eliza) Pierce of Birmingham, AL, Calvin (Evelyn) Pierce of Ft. Washington, MD, Sandra Pierce of Fultondale, AL, and Melvin Pierce of Homewood, AL; 15 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; and many other relatives, friends, and colleagues.



Bro. Charlie Pierce
Aug. 13, 1915-Sept. 18, 2020



Article Submission Guidelines

The Cornerstone Message accepts submissions of articles, flyers, and information of events of general interest to Prince Hall Masons throughout the state of Alabama. The *Cornerstone Message* is published quarterly in the months of April, July, October, and January. Submission of articles and photographs are to be forwarded to the publication's editor via email (hjeromeglover@yahoo.com). Please include a point of contact and telephone number with each article submission. Articles and photographs become property of the publication and the right is reserved to edit and use the articles and photographs as deemed necessary. **Deadline for submissions for the next issue of *The Cornerstone Message* is 5 January 2021.** These articles should include events from **October 2020 - December 2020**. Articles are to be submitted with a minimum of one paragraph written in third person using Microsoft Word (Times New Roman 11) and photographs should be of good quality JPEG format and captioned. No more than two articles per lodge can be submitted for each edition. Permission to reprint original articles appearing in *The Cornerstone Message* is granted to all recognized Masonic publications.

THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE



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