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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION NUMBER 24 February 24, 2021

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 Africa to me... is more than a glamorous fact. It is a historical truth. No man can know where he is going unless he knows exactly where he has been and exactly how he arrived at his present place.”

Maya Angelou

Beginning well over four hundred years ago, our people were ripped from Mother Africa and brought, as slaves, to what is now the United States of America. Over the years, our ancestors have suffered unimaginable physical and mental abuse. However, they somehow managed to persevere and achieve. We should be proud of our ancestors’ resilience in their plight to one day be treated as equals, created by one God. Unfortunately, today we still see the effects that over four hundred years in bondage has had on our people, in a nation built on the backs, blood, sweat and tears of our ancestors. Currently, there remains a disproportionate socio-economic gap between races in this country. In many states, laws are still on the

books, and many are still being passed, maybe more discretely, that discriminates because of one's skin color. During this Black History Month, and during all other months, let us reflect on where we have been, where we are currently, and where we are going. It is our duty, no one else's, to teach our children and grandchildren about the struggles and the achievements of our ancestors, the present-day struggles and achievements of our people, and to instill within them the importance of preparation for tomorrow.

SELMA MARCH

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the 56th Anniversary Selma Bridge Crossing will be a virtual event this year. On Sunday, March 7, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. the virtual event will take place. To participate in the virtual bridge crossing please go to <https://hopin.com/events/56th-anniversary-selma-bridge-crossing-jubilee> to register. There is no cost for registration.

GRAND LODGE REGISTRATION FEE

In accordance with Official Communication No. 22, due to the cancellation of the Annual Grand Lodge Session in July of 2020, the annual registration fee for the year 2020 will be credited in the registration department to the year 2021. Therefore, if you paid your Grand Lodge Registration Fee for the year 2020, it will be applied to the year 2021.

Several lodges that paid the registration fee for the year 2020 have also mailed in payments for the year 2021. Those payments will be applied to the year 2022. The Grand Lodge will not process reimbursements. Only credits will be provided.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS

The Grand Lodge has begun to migrate to plastic membership cards without charge to the present membership. I was able to purchase the card printing machine and the supplies with funds from the discretionary donations. Lodges that are current in the tax department will receive plastic membership cards for its members within the next two weeks.

Five dollars will be added to the new membership fee and reinstatement fee to cover the cost of a new membership card for those joining and reinstating. There will be a \$10.00 fee to replace a lost or stolen card. In the past, paper membership cards were printed at ten cents per card; however, we will be

using stickers to place on the plastic cards at a cost of twenty-five cents per sticker. Because our system has not been updated, the latest tax invoice had a charge of ten cents per sticker; however, the extra fifteen cents per sticker will be added to the invoice in May.

SOUVENIR JOURNAL

Although we did not print a book, our souvenir journal efforts for 2020 were a great success. I congratulate and thank all who participated. We will print ads for the 2020 and 2021 souvenir journal in our upcoming book. The souvenir journal information for 2021 is enclosed with this Communication and will be available on the website. Please sell as many ads as you can and pay strict attention to the deadline date of **May 15, 2021**.

All subordinate lodges are REQUIRED to purchase or to sell a full-page ad or two half-page ads. If the lodge purchased or sold an ad for the 2020 souvenir journal, it is also responsible for selling or purchasing an ad for the 2021 souvenir journal. Both ads will be placed in the book.

VIRTUAL REGIONAL MEETINGS

The schedule for 2021 Virtual Regional Meetings is as follows:

Saturday, March 6, 2021 – Region #6: District Number 17—Grand District Deputy H. Jerome Glover (#17) at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, March 20, 2021 – Region #3: District Numbers 5 and 6—Grand District Deputies Rickey Allen (#5) and Billy Morris (#6) at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 3, 2021 – Region #1: District Numbers 1, 3 and 4— Grand District Deputies Maurice Edwards (#1), Robert L. Stallworth, Jr. (#3) and Billy J. Stallworth (#4) at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 10, 2021 – 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.

Saturday, April 17, 2021 – Region #2: District Numbers 2 and 12—Grand District Deputies Lurie Walton (#2) and Rev. Richard Wilson (#12) at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 24, 2021 – 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.

WORSHIPFUL MASTERS, WARDENS AND BROTHERS ARE TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR VIRTUAL REGIONAL MEETINGS. EVERY LODGE IS TO BE REPRESENTED. ZOOM CREDENTIALS WILL BE EMAILED OUT TO THE GRAND DISTRICT DEPUTIES BY GRAND SECRETARY JOHNSON. THE GRAND DISTRICT DEPUTIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISSEMINATING THE ZOOM CREDENTIALS TO THE WORSHIPFUL MASTERS AND BROTHERS IN THEIR DISTRICTS.

ANNUAL GRAND LODGE SESSION POSSIBILITIES

Presently, our 151st Annual Communication remains scheduled to be held July 19-21, 2021, in Mobile, Alabama. However, I will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation. There is a possibility that the session may be modified, postponed or canceled.

GRAND LODGE OFFICE CLOSED TO APPOINTMENTS and WALK-INS

In a continued attempt 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.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- 1.) To enter the Alabama School of Masonry (masonic college) on our website, you must enter the password [REDACTED].
- 2.) Addresses and telephone numbers on lodge rolls must be updated at least once a year and as often as needed as members often relocate.
- 3.) 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.

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

5.) 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.

6.) Brothers who reach exemption status are exempt from endowment dues only. To be approved for exemption status, a brother must have been a member of the Endowment Department at least thirty-two (32) years without a break in time (i.e., suspension for non-payment of dues, suspension from the lodge, etc.). 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.

7.) When you renew your license plates please remember to purchase a Prince Hall Grand Lodge license plate. The new design was just released in December. 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.

8.) Please continue to make use of our Traveling Again Reclamation Program (TARP). It has been extended until July 31, 2021.

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

- \$25.00 reinstatement fee
- \$25.00 taxes
- \$25.00 registration
- \$50.00 assessment—**Have two years to pay the remaining \$150.00**
- \$125.00 TOTAL**

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

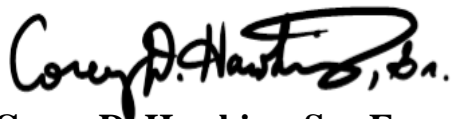
- \$25.00 reinstatement fee
- \$25.00 taxes
- \$25.00 registration

\$50.00 assessment—**Have two years to pay the remaining \$200.00**
\$125.00 TOTAL

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).

9.) 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 24th day of February 2021, A. L. 6021



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

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