

COREY D. HAWKINS, SR., Esq. Most Worshipful Grand Master Post Office Box 10504 Birmingham, AL 35202-0504 mwgmofalabama@gmail.com

ROBERT W. GLENN Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master 6064 Hwy 10 W Lisman, Alabama 36912-2897

WOODIE PUGH, JR. Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warden 305 Heritage Drive Jackson, AL 36545-2274

MAURICE EDWARDS Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden 5408 Forest Park Drive Mobile, AL 36618-2463

JAMES GRAY, II, Ed.D. Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer 2620 Colonial Drive Tuscaloosa, AL 35404-2562

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



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

MASONIC TEMPLE OFFICES 319 17th Street · Suite 220 Birmingham, Alabama 35203-2047 MAILING ADDRESS Post Office Box 10504 Birmingham, Alabama 35202-0504 ANTHONY J. JOHNSON Right Worshipful Grand Secretary Post Office Box 6468 Huntsville, AL 35813-6468

VICTOR B. PETTUS Right Worshipful Grand Trustee 1222 11th Place Pleasant Grove, AL 35127-0097

> ANDREW J. FULLER Right Worshipful Grand Trustee 3219 Clifford Road, N.W. Huntsville, AL 35810-2911

MORRIS E. TOOLES, II Right Worshipful Grand Trustee 124 Malia Lane Montgomery, AL 36117

TYRONE C. MEANS, Esq. Right Worshipful Grand Attorney Post Office Box 5058 Montgomery, AL 36103-5058

(Office) 205-328-9078 (Fax) 205-328-9141 www.mwphglofal.org

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION NUMBER 26

October 6, 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

In accordance with the provisions of our *Constitution and By-laws* and in conformity with the action of our last Grand Lodge, you are hereby officially notified that the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. and A. M. of Alabama, will convene in its 151st (one-hundred forty-third since consolidation) Annual Grand Lodge Communication, on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 8:30 a.m., at The Westin Huntsville Hotel, 6800 Governors Drive West, Huntsville, Alabama 35806.

GRAND LODGE OBLIGATIONS

To be represented in the Grand Lodge without embarrassment, it is very necessary that every lodge is paid up within bounds with ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GRAND LODGE.

REPRESENTATIVES

Each subordinate lodge is encouraged to have representation present at the Annual Grand Lodge Communication. Lodges will be represented by their Worshipful Masters and/or Wardens. All Past Masters **MUST** obtain, from their subordinate lodge, a certificate or a statement duly signed by the Master,

attested by the Secretary, and sealed with the seal of the lodge, showing that they are in good standing with their subordinate lodges as of June 30, 2021. Reasonable proof may be requested as to Past Master's status. The abovementioned certificate or statement filed with the Credentials Committee and proof of being current in all departments, including the temple renovation assessment, will entitle Past Masters to seats in the Grand Lodge. The June report of lodges to the Grand Secretary will be sufficient credentials for the representatives of the various subordinate lodges. However, all representatives will register with the Credentials Committee. At registration, representatives will receive an official badge, which will admit them to be seated in the Grand Lodge. The Credentials Committee will be stationed in The Westin Huntsville Hotel. **Reminder: Lodges must be current in its tax payments and all brothers must be current in all payments owed to the Grand Lodge, including the building renovation assessment, in order to be seated in the Grand Lodge Session. This will be strictly enforced.**

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Due to the COVID Pandemic, the Welcome and Awards Program, as well as, the Lodge of Sorrow are canceled. We will memorialize our deceased brothers during our Lodge of Sorrow at our 152nd Annual Grand Lodge Communication in July of 2022.

MASONIC CLOTHES

All representatives, officers, and brothers **must bring black or dark blue suits, white shirts, black tie, white aprons and white gloves,** because each must be properly clothed in accordance with the *Authorized Regalia Guide and Dress Code Specifications* to enter the Grand Lodge Session and the Lodge of Sorrow. This requirement will be strictly enforced.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

No man should ever enter upon any great and important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of Deity. Because our Annual Communication is such a great and important undertaking, we will engage in daily devotions at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings until the sound of the gavel at 8:30 a.m. *O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. Psalm 34:3*

ACCOMMODATIONS

Please be sure to make hotel reservations at The Westin Huntsville Hotel, located at 6800 Governors Drive West, Huntsville, Alabama 35806 before you arrive. You may make your reservations directly by calling **1-256-428-2000**

and asking for the **MEN of the MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE ROOM BLOCK** or by clicking on the following link: <u>https://www.marriott.com/event-</u><u>reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1626742750146&key=GRP&app=resvlink</u>. The rate for the hotel is \$129.00 per night plus applicable taxes. The cutoff date for reservations is November 12, 2021.

COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The Grand Lodge is fully aware; and takes seriously the dangers involving exposure to the COVID-19 virus and its several variants. The protection and safety of our members is our top priority. In order to attend the Annual Grand Lodge Communication, the following are required:

- A face mask must be worn at all times.
- A vaccination card showing full vaccination status against COVID-19 (at least two weeks after final dose), **OR**
- Negative COVID-19 test result administered by a medical professional and taken within 72 hours of registration at this year's session.
- Complete a copy of the COVID-19 Liability Waiver and Statement of Understanding
- A wristband will be issued daily to each member who has successfully passed the temperature check. **NO WRISTBAND, NO ENTRY!**
- Temperature checks will be required anytime you leave and return to any of the designated meeting rooms. Temperature checks may also be rendered throughout the session or as directed by yours truly.
- Social distancing is required.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER'S CERTIFICATION REFRESHER

A Worshipful Master's Certification refresher course will be held for all Worshipful Masters, Wardens, and Brothers to attend. The certification refresher course will take place on Monday, December 6, 2021, at 8:00 a.m., in The Westin Huntsville Hotel. Sign-in for the seminar will begin promptly at 7:00 a.m.

MASONIC COLLEGE & TESTING

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama has implemented a Masonic College (Alabama School of Masonry). The college can be accessed via our website at **www.mwphglofal.org**. To enter the Masonic College, you must type in the password **and the set of the Bronze**, Silver, Gold and Platinum levels. A minimum score of 90 on each exam is required to move to the next level. Those who complete

each level will be awarded a certificate and a token of achievement. Testing will take place on Monday, December 6, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. in The Westin Huntsville Hotel. Brothers must bring their own laptops, iPads, tablets, etc. to take the tests. The Grand Lodge is not responsible for your electronic devices. The cost to test per level is \$10.00 per brother.

MASONIC WORKSHOPS

Masonic workshops for all Worshipful Masters, Wardens, Treasurers, Secretaries, other lodge officers, and any member who wishes to participate will be conducted on Monday, December 6, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., in The Westin Huntsville Hotel. These workshops provide valuable information which will be helpful to all members.

PROSPECTS

Everything points to another harmonious and successful Grand Lodge Session. I am grateful for your attendance and participation; however, your safety is my main concern. Every lodge is reminded to do its full Masonic duty by sending its Worshipful Master or its Senior Warden or Junior Warden to represent each lodge at this session. However, **the lodge must be current in its taxes and the brother current with all departments.** Every worthy Worshipful Master deserves the honor of an annual trip to the Grand Lodge Session with all expenses paid and a reasonable per diem for his time. Every financial brother has the right to attend and should attend the Annual Grand Lodge Session.

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 1ST AND BY MAY 30TH. 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, each month—but not later than the 20th of the month. REMEMBER, NO MEMBER OF A LODGE WILL BE SEATED IN THE GRAND LODGE IF THAT LODGE HAS NOT PAID ITS GRAND LODGE TAXES AND NO MEMBER WILL BE SEATED IN THE GRAND LODGE IF HE IS NOT PAID UP TO CURRENT IN ALL DEPARTMENTS. Take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly!

RE-OPENING OF THE JURISDICTION OF ALABAMA

Effective January 1, 2022, the Jurisdiction of Alabama will re-open and resume masonic functions. However, CDC guidelines will be followed. More information concerning re-opening will be disseminated at a later date.

WARNING

To those who plan to drive to Huntsville, I wish to take this opportunity to warn you to drive carefully and to be sure to observe all TRAFFIC RULES AND REGULATIONS. Do your part to see that no accidents occur. The life you save may be your own.

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 6th day of October 2021, A.L. 6021.



Attested:

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

Anthony J. Johnson

Anthony J. Johnson Right Worshipful Grand Secretary