

TO THE CRAFT TO BE DISSEMINATED



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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION NUMBER 29

December 7, 2022

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:

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold and frankincense, and myrrh."

Matthew 2:11

The 152nd Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama was another huge success and was greatly attended. Each year the attendance at our Annual Communication continues to increase. Our host hotels were sold out and our sessions and programs were filled to the masses. Commendations are due R.W. Llewellyn Spencer and all the dedicated Brothers of District One for all their hard work, dedication and hospitality rendered. I want to thank all the Grand Lodge Officers, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens and Brethren for your outstanding participation and decorum exemplified during our Annual Communication. Your attendance and conduct at the session is appreciated and is to be commended.

While at the 152nd Annual Communication we were fortunate enough to induct three brothers (two posthumously) into our Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama's Hall of Fame. We congratulate those inductees.

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

"No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it."

H. E. Luccock

The following is a list of the Grand Lodge Officers for Masonic year 2022-2023, both elected and appointed:

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq. (33), Grand Master

Robert W. Glenn (89), Deputy Grand Master

Woodie Pugh, Jr. (139), Senior Grand Warden

Maurice Edwards (3), Junior Grand Warden

Dr. James Gray, II (490), Grand Treasurer

Anthony J. Johnson (50), Grand Secretary/CCFC

Morris E. Tooles, II (408), Grand Trustee 3 years

Victor B. Pettus (32), Grand Trustee (Chairman), 2 years

Andrew J. Fuller (6), Grand Trustee 1 year

Acie Hale (14), Grand Senior Deacon

Carlton Jones (428), Grand Junior Deacon

John Manuel (1), Grand Senior Steward

Charlie Axle (319), Grand Junior Steward

Vacant, Grand Chaplain

Charles L. Motley, Jr. (624), Grand Standard Bearer

Robert L. Goodloe (46), Grand Sword Bearer

Freddie L. Armstead, Jr. (26), Grand Marshal

George Wilson (199), Grand Pursuivant

William Garrett (410), Grand Tyler/Assistant Convention Coordinator

Dennis Simmons (778), Endowment Secretary

Dr. L. Ken Collins, II (431), Grand Historian/Corporate Liaison

Dr. Marxlyn David (71), Grand Musician

Kevin Howard (216), Grand Recording Secretary

Johnny Isaac (398), Chief of Security/Special Deputy

Gregory L. Clark (218), Convention Coordinator/Corporate Liaison

Quinton Burrow (59), Aide to the Grand Master

Desmond Thomas (33), Assistant Grand Recording Secretary

GRAND DISTRICT DEPUTIES

The following are the Grand District Deputies for Masonic year 2022-2023:

District Number 1 Llewellyn Spencer (2)

District Number 2 Lurie Walton (694)

District Number 3 Robert Stallworth, Jr. (141)

District Number 4 Billy Joe Stallworth (196)

District Number 5 Rev. Robert Worlds (356)

District Number 6 Billy Morris (444)

District Number 7 Erwin Chambliss (408)

District Number 8 Donald R. Parks (345)

District Number 10 Edward Cobb (395)

District Number 12 Rev. Richard Wilson, Jr. (642)

District Number 13 Alvin Crawford (213)

District Number 14 Walter Greene (431)

District Number 15 Dr. James Gray, II (490)

District Number 17 H. Jerome Glover (50)

Our Grand District Deputies are the lifeline between the Grand Lodge and the Subordinate Lodges. They are the vocal pieces and the representatives of the Grand Master in their particular districts. All Worshipful Masters, Wardens, and Brothers are expected to cooperate fully with their Grand District Deputies. All Grand District Deputies are expected to attend to their respective duties diligently.

TRAVELING AGAIN RECLAMATION PROGRAM (TARP)

Our Traveling Again Reclamation Program (TARP) has been an asset to this great organization. "Out of Bounds" Brothers are continuing to come back home to Prince Hall Freemasonry. Let us continue to welcome those Brothers back and encourage more to come.

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

* Add \$5.00 if the reinstating member desires a membership certificate.

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). 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 place him on another lodge's roll.

Brothers continue to go out and reclaim our lost membership. This is an excellent way to rebuild our lodges. I have extended TARP through July 31, 2023.

TAX EXEMPTION

The Grand Lodge has become exempt from all state, county, and municipal fees and taxes pursuant to Alabama Legislature Act 2022-350, until September 30, 2027, unless extended by an act of the Legislature. You may view Act 2022-350 at the following link: https://arc-sos.state.al.us/ucp/L0931038.AI1.pdf.

Enclosed is a State Sales and Use Tax Certificate of Exemption (Form: STE-1) and a Rationale for Tax Exempt Use Form. The Grand Lodge will have to report on how and where our tax exemption is used; therefore, whenever a lodge uses our tax exemption status, it **MUST SUBMIT** to the Grand Lodge, in care of Grand Master Hawkins:

- 1.) a copy of the completed and signed State Sales and Use Tax Certificate of Exemption (Form: STE-1),
- 2.) a copy of the receipt for the transaction, and
- 3.) a Rationale for Tax Exempt Use Form

Brothers, these guidelines **MUST** be followed. Please do not abuse our tax exemption status. Use it for what it is meant, the lodge.

FULL RE-OPENING

Effective January 1, 2023, the Jurisdiction of Alabama will engage in a "full" reopening of masonic functions. **ALL LODGES WILL BE REQUIRED TO MEET IN PERSON**. **Dispensations for degree work will no longer be required**. The world has opened up again. It is time for us to do the same. I encourage all to continue to wear masks and get vaccinated.

SELMA MARCH

For the tenth 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 5, 2023, to participate in the 59th 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. Last year we had hundreds of brothers and sisters to attend; however, due to the march time being pushed back, many of our members were unable to remain and participate. I have been assured that the march will take place on time this year. 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.

SOUVENIR JOURNAL

Our souvenir journal efforts for 2022 were a great success. I congratulate and thank all who participated. The souvenir journal information for 2023 is enclosed with this Communication and will be available on the website. Please pay strict attention to the deadline date of May 15, 2023. All subordinate lodges are <u>REQUIRED</u> to purchase or to sell a full-page ad or two half-page ads.

2022 HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS

Posthumous Inductions

- ♦ R.W. Edgar Vann (Served 37 years as Worshipful Master & almost 30 years as Grand Tyler), Steele Scepter No. 649
- ♦ Bro. Lucius D. Amerson (1st Black Sheriff in the Deep South since Reconstruction), Lewis Adams No. 67

Other Induction

♦ R.W. Donald R. Parks (1st Imperial Potentate from Alabama in modern times), R.H. Rice No. 345

2022 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

| Applicant Name | College/University | Amount Given |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Mary Alston | University of West Georgia | \$1,400.00 |
| Mea Cooley | Jones College | \$1,400.00 |
| Jada Colley | Tennessee State University | \$1,400.00 |
| Julius Morris | Colby Community College | \$1,400.00 |
| Ty'Andrea Tillis | Enterprise State Community College | \$1,400.00 |
| Gabrielle Simpson | University of Alabama-Birmingham | \$1,400.00 |
| Autumn Hawkins | University of Alabama | \$2,500.00 |
| Scholarships | Alabama A.&M. University | \$10,000.00 |
| Scholarships | Alabama State University | \$5,000.00 |
| Scholarships | Tuskegee University | \$5,000.00 |
| Scholarships | Stillman College | \$5,000.00 |
| Scholarships | Miles College | \$10,000.00 |

WINNING LODGES of the YEAR

RURAL LODGE of the YEAR

1st Place– Shorter Lodge No. 533 Brother Willie Smith, Worshipful Master

2nd Place- Goshen Lodge No. 132 Brother Cad Ford, Worshipful Master

3rd Place- Morrow Grove Lodge No. 800 Brother Robert Stewart, Worshipful Master

CITY LODGE of the YEAR

1st Place– Hamilton Lodge No. 365 Brother Loveless Belser, Worshipful Master

2nd Place- New Beginning Lodge No. 970 Brother Jerome Womack, Worshipful Master

3rd Place- Phoenix Lodge No. 428 Brother Keith Daniel, Worshipful Master

WINNING DISTRICT DEPUTIES of the YEAR

1st Place Winner

R. W. Walter Greene, Grand District Deputy of District No. 14

2nd Place Winner

R. W. H. Jerome Glover, Grand District Deputy of District No. 17

3rd Place Winner

R. W. Erwin Chambliss, Grand District Deputy of District No. 7

WINNING DISTRICTS FOR SOUVENIR JOURNAL AD SALES

1st Place – District No. 14

R. W. Walter Greene, Grand District Deputy

2nd Place - District No. 7 R. W. Erwin Chambliss, Grand District Deputy

WINNING LODGES FOR SOUVENIR JOURNAL AD SALES

1st Place – Phoenix Lodge No. 428

Brother Keith Daniel, Worshipful Master

2nd Place – Council Lodge No. 778 Brother Dennis C. Simmons, Worshipful Master

3rd Place – Shorter Lodge No. 533 Brother Willie Smith, Worshipful Master

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- 1.) Every Lodge is required to display its current roll on the Secretary's desk at every meeting. Every Brother has the right to look at the roll to make sure his money is being sent to the Grand Lodge. Grand District Deputies, make certain that when you visit a lodge that you check to make sure that a current lodge roll is displayed on the Secretary's desk.
- 2.) The healing of a clandestine or irregular made Mason <u>must</u> be approved by the Grand Master and requires a dispensation. You may send a Request for Dispensation form to me at the Grand Lodge Office. Please check the "other" box and type or print: "to heal" and then list the individual(s). Also, prior to healing, the lodge should obtain the full \$200.00 assessment, along with other required fees, from the individual(s).
- 3.) Grand Lodge taxes are \$25.00 per member, per year. IF YOUR LODGE PAYS ITS TAXES SEMI-ANNUALLY, THE AMOUNT DUE WILL BE \$12.50 PER MEMBER BY DECEMBER 15TH AND MAY 30TH. IF YOUR LODGE PAYS ITS TAXES ANNUALLY, THE AMOUNT DUE WILL BE \$25.00 PER MEMBER BY DECEMBER 15TH. 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. A \$25.00 late fee will be assessed to each lodge if the Grand Lodge taxes are received more than 30 days past the due dates.
- 4.) 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 20th of the month.
- 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.) A Request for Dispensation should be made as early as possible and must be made no fewer than fourteen (14) days prior to the event, emergency circumstances excepted. Requests must be made to the Most Worshipful Grand Master.
- 7.) To enter the Alabama School of Masonry (masonic college) on our website, you must enter the password . The content for the Platinum Level will be available in the early spring.
- 8.) The current fee structure is as follows:
 - a.) Reinstatement \$25.00
 - b.) New Membership (includes membership certificate) \$30.00
 - c.) Membership Certificates \$5.00
 - d.) Taxes \$25.00
 - e.) Registration \$25.00
 - f.) Cornerstone & Burial \$6.00
 - g.) Replacement Membership Card \$10.00
 - h.) Membership Card Sticker 25C
 - i.) Book of Constitutions \$20.00
 - j.) Assessment New Members and those suspended before June 2002 \$200.00. Those suspended after June 2002 \$250.00 (all have two years to pay)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

During this holiday season, and always, let us be thankful for the many blessings the Grand Architect of the Universe has bestowed upon us, and let us remember the less fortunate. Let us pray for peace and prosperity for others, our families and for our beloved Grand Lodge during the holidays and for the upcoming new year. I petition each of you to please remember the true reason for the Christmas season, the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior. I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Prosperous New Year!

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 7th day of December 2022, A. L. 6022.

Court Hartis, S.

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

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

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Anthony J. Johnson Right Worshipful Grand Secretary of the

Attested:

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