



THE CORNERSTONE

M E S S A G E

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

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APRIL 2023

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Prince Hall Legacy
Foundation of Alabama
Awarded Grant

The Lecture



THE GRAND MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD



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I'd Rather See A Sermon

Poet: Edgar A. Guest

*I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day;
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear,
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear;
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,
For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.*

*I soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done;
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.
And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true,
But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do;
For I might misunderstand you and the high advise you give,
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.*

*When I see a deed of kindness, I am eager to be kind.
When a weaker brother stumbles and a strong man stays behind
Just to see if he can help him, then the wish grows strong in me
To become as big and thoughtful as I know that friend to be.
And all travelers can witness that the best of guides today
Is not the one who tells them, but the one who shows the way.*

*One good man teaches many, men believe what they behold;
One deed of kindness noticed is worth forty that are told.
Who stands with men of honor learns to hold his honor dear,
For right living speaks a language which to every one is clear.
Though an able speaker charms me with his eloquence, I say,
I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one, any day.*

With this poem in mind, I am reminded of the anonymous

quote, "Actions speak louder than words." We as brothers should always allow our actions, our works to speak for us. Too often we get caught up in talking a good game, but not backing it up with our actions.

Just as Edgar A. Guest suggests, let us lead and live by example. In our everyday lives we should be that beacon of light in our communities, at our workplaces, in our places of worship, and in our lodges. We must always remember that someone is watching and listening to us. Whether we like it or not, we are someone's role model. Rather than shy away from it, it is better to embrace it and live the lifestyle of a role model.

In leading by example or living our sermons, we leave no room for the doubter or naysayer to levy against our words. As we live our sermons, we show the world how just and upright masons should carry themselves. That our actions far exceed our verbal communication. That the impact of our good deeds outweighs the significance of our speech.

I encourage each of you, throughout your lives, live your sermon, lead by example so that when that time comes for each of us to meet our Creator, the songstress can truly exclaim with her melodious voice, loud and confidently, "May the works that I've done speak for me."

May God bless you and may He bless this great Grand Lodge.

Fraternally,

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.

Most Worshipful Grand Master

Front Cover: District Deputy Parks and his wife,
2023 Adult Prom King and Queen

Message from the Editor



RW Herman "Jerome" Glover (50)
Publication Editor

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



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

Now is a great time for all of us to start working on retention and improving our communications with our lodge brothers. Please reach out to all your members just to say, "Hi, how are you doing?", and thank them for being a member of your lodge. A phone call is more personal than a group text or email, especially for our elderly brothers that don't use smartphones and/or computers often.

We should always be check-

ing on our members many times a year and make sure that they are okay. Let's live our obligation. When making those brotherly love calls, you eliminate those comments that say "You only call when I owe my dues." If we show them, we care, we might not need to make those calls when dues are due. The question is, "What have you done for your brothers?" Are you talking to them at least quarterly?

I've heard comments that our brothers are not coming back to the lodge. Maybe we need to take a good look at what we are doing. Are we bringing value? Times are changing and we need to look at everything we are doing. Our brothers have stayed home

for a few years now and have formed other habits. We need to find things they would enjoy doing to get them to come back. We must start thinking outside the box, and remember, not everyone can attend lodge meetings, so find ideas to get others involved and keep spreading the cement of brotherly love.

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 2023 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:

- \$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

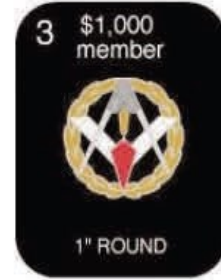
Members suspended after June, 2002, can reinstate by paying the following:

- \$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

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 until further notice.

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!

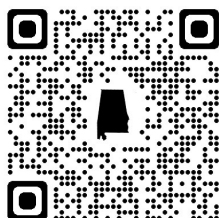


SUPPORT THE PRINCE HALL LEGACY FOUNDATION OF ALABAMA, INC.



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://www.revenue.alabama.gov/license-plates/>

(You may purchase the MWP HGL of AL Tags Anytime, You do not have to wait for your renewal Month!)

SPRING

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

APRIL

EGGS

MAY

AZALEAS

FLOWERS

NESTS

BASEBALL

GARDEN

ROSES

BIRDS

GRASS

SEEDS

BUMBLEBEES

GREEN

SHOWERS

BUTTERFLY

GROWTH

TULIPS

CLEANING

JACKET

UMBRELLA

EASTER

MARCH

WEEDS



PRINCE HALL LEGACY FOUNDATION OF ALABAMA RECEIVES MAJOR GRANT FROM THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION TO PRESERVE HISTORY OF THE BIRMINGHAM MASONIC TEMPLE

Birmingham, Alabama – The Prince Hall Legacy Foundation of Alabama was recently awarded a grant by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to preserve artifacts and memorabilia from the historic Masonic Temple in the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument. The grant will be used over 24 months to support work to organize and archive materials along with collecting and creating publicly available oral histories about the Prince Hall Masonic Temple in Birmingham.

The century-old historic building in downtown Birmingham is undergoing a \$29 million renovation that will create a state-of-the-art, sustainable, or “green” commercial office and event facility. Historic District Developers, LLC is managing the renovation project while working with the Prince Hall Masons’ preservation committee to ensure that items from the building are carefully authenticated, preserved, and cataloged.

Prince Hall Legacy Foundation President Gregory L. Clark said the Mellon grant would allow the foundation to properly preserve artifacts and oral histories from the Masonic community and the community at large. Some verified, donated memorabilia will become part of this preservation effort.

“Our foundation can continue with a heightened level of excitement, inclusion, and engagement as we ramp up preservation,” Clark said. “We now know how our Masonic Temple founders felt over 100 years ago, knowing they were creating educational and economic impact for then-current and future generations. The Mellon Foundation will forever have our utmost appreciation.”

The Masonic Temple sits in the heart of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument at the corner of 4th Avenue North and 17th Street. It was completed in 1924 and housed the Alabama Headquarters for the Prince Hall Masons and the Order of the Eastern Star. Dozens of offices of notable African American professionals, organizations, and businesses were located inside.

Historic District Developer Project Manager Llevelyn Rhone said, “renovation of the building provides an opportunity to preserve black cultural history and restore significant physical artifacts and history unique to the Masonic Temple. Preservation of these artifacts, their exhibition, and public access utilizing digitization and technology will help restore public memory by chronicling social and political movements, including the labor and civil rights movements.”

“With this grant, the Prince Hall Masons in Alabama, which once had well over 30,000 members, will allow our foundation to assist in organizing our archival materials further and documenting oral histories that will be beneficial to the organization as well as the African Americans community for many years to come,” said Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins.” We are so thankful for the award and the opportunity to preserve our rich fraternal history and a significant part of American history.”

About the Prince Hall Legacy Foundation

The Prince Hall Legacy Foundation of Alabama Inc. was incorporated in the State of Alabama in 2012, as a 501(c)(3). The corporation was organized exclusively as a charitable and educational entity to promote the health, education, and welfare of the citizens of Alabama, particularly in communities that have a high percentage of culturally or economically disadvantaged residents, large minority populations, or which otherwise have been under-served in these areas.

About The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is the nation’s largest supporter of the arts and humanities. Since 1969, the foundation has been guided by its core belief that the humanities and arts are essential to human understanding. The foundation believes that the arts and humanities are where we express our complex humanity, and that everyone deserves the beauty, transcendence, and freedom that can be found there. Through our grants, the foundation seeks to build just communities enriched by meaning and empowered by critical thinking, where ideas and imagination can thrive. Learn more at mellon.org.



THE LECTURE



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A PRINCE HALL AFFILIATED FREE AND ACCEPTED MASON?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A PRINCE HALL AFFILIATED FREE & ACCEPTED MASON? THIS IS A QUESTION I PROPOSE TO ALL REGULAR MASONS. THIS IS NOT FOR A RESPONSE OR ANSWER, BECAUSE THE QUESTION IS SUBJECTIVE, MEANING SUBJECT TO YOUR OWN INTERPRETATION OR EXPERIENCE. HOWEVER, THE TENANTS OF MASONRY SHOULD BE AN UNDERLYING AND UNIVERSAL TRUTH NO MATTER HOW ONE ANSWERS. ONE COULD ANSWER THAT BEING A PRINCE HALL FREE & ACCEPTED MASON MEANS THAT HE IS ULTIMATELY TRYING TO BE A BETTER MAN, DAY BY DAY. ANOTHER COULD RESPOND THAT IT MEANS THAT HE IS A PART OF SOMETHING GREATER THAN HIMSELF, BEING A PILLAR OF SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY. AND A BROTHER COULD SAY THAT IT MEANS FELLOWSHIP AND BROTHERHOOD. NO MATTER THE ANSWER, RESPONSE, OR INTERPRETATION, FAITH, HOPE, AND CHARITY SHOULD BE THE UNDERLYING TRUTHS IN ALL RESPONSES GIVEN FROM ANY REGULAR BROTHER.

WHEN ONE SAYS HE IS TRYING TO BE A BETTER MAN, ONE HAS TO FIRST BELIEVE THAT HE CAN BE BETTER, THEREFORE FAITH HAS ITS APPLICATION BEFORE THE ACTIONS OF TRYING TO BE BETTER CAN BE APPLIED. FAITH THE SIZE OF A MUSTARD SEED CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS, AND THE LACK OF FAITH FOR SOME, IS THE OBSTACLE BETWEEN THEIR TRIUMPH. FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS IN VAIN, BUT WORKING WITHOUT FAITH IS EQUALLY IF NOT UNEQUIVOCALLY IN VAIN. THEREFORE BEFORE ANY ENDEAVOR, WE PRAY, AND HAVE FAITH THAT DEITY WILL BE IN THE MIDST OF SUCH ENDEAVORS.

BEING A PART OF SOMETHING GREATER THAN YOURSELF, WITH THE GOAL OF DOING SOME GOOD IN YOUR COMMUNITY MEANS THAT YOU HAVE HOPE THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL BE BETTER FOR THE WORK YOU ARE DOING TODAY. YOU HAVE HOPE THAT THROUGH YOUR PARTICIPATION, YOU CAN BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE. IF IT WAS NOT FOR HOPE OF A BETTER TOMORROW, HOW COULD WE BE MOTIVATED TO PERFORM TODAY? THE HOPE OF A MORE PROMISING CAREER, RELATIONSHIP, COMMUNITY, AND PLANET IS THE DRIVING FORCE FOR ALL CIVILIZED HUMANITY; AND IT IS THAT HOPE THAT UNITES US IN HARMONY.

FRATERNITY OF BROTHERS CAN ONLY EXIST THROUGH CHARITY. IN THE SENSE OF THE WORD CHARITY, MOST PEOPLE IMMEDIATELY THINK IN TERMS OF MONETARY DONATIONS OR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS. HOWEVER, WHEN BEING A LIVING PERPENDICULAR ON THE SQUARE, YOUR TIME AND ENERGY IS THE MOST VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION YOU COULD DONATE TO THE ORDER. MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS ON OUR PART ARE STATUS QUO, BUT IF WE ARE TRULY PUTTING IN THE WORK AT OUR LOCAL LODGES, WE ARE ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY AND THEY ARE SUPPORTING OUR CAUSE BY WILLINGLY OR UNWITTINGLY DONATING TO OUR CAUSE, AND IN ESSENCE DOING THEIR CHARITABLE DUTY. HAVING AN ATTENTIVE EAR FOR A BROTHER IN NEED IS CHARITY. GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR YOUR GRAND LODGE WHEN NEEDED IS CHARITY. YOU WILL KNOW A PERSON BY THEIR WORKS, AND THE WORKS OF ANY MAN THAT IS TRULY MEASURABLE IS CHARITY.

THEREFORE, BROTHERS, REMEMBER THE OBLIGATION THAT WE ALL TOOK CANNOT BE REPUDIATED NOR SET ASIDE. KEEP THE CORE VALUES OF OUR ORDER CLOSE TO YOUR HEART AND SHARP IN YOUR MIND. BE THE BEACON OF LIGHT FOR SOMEONE ELSE, JUST LIKE SOMEONE ELSE WAS THE BEACON OF LIGHT THAT ATTRACTED YOU TO THE ORDER. NO MATTER HOW MANY DEGREES YOU HAVE, OR HOW LONG YOU HAVE BEEN MADE A MASON, I CHALLENGE YOU TO SIT, REFLECT, AND ASK YOURSELF, "WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A PRINCE HALL FREE & ACCEPTED MASON?" GOVERN YOURSELVES ACCORDINGLY.

HUMBLY AND FRATEERNALLY,

WORSHIPFUL MASTER KEITH DANIEL, 33°, ADD DISTRICT 7

What is the Secret of Freemasonry and Those in Masonry?

Greetings brothers of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama. I am Brother Bakari Dale, the lecturer from Council Lodge No. 778 in Birmingham AL. I'm a Civilian Senior Executive stationed in Washington DC, on the Under Secretary of the Army's Staff. I serve as the Senior Advisor for Enterprise Data Science & Artificial Intelligence (AI). I draft this article out of my love for the craft and to inform many new brothers about the beauty and art of our great fraternity. When we look at growing the fraternity with good men, sometimes we as masters of the craft need to have the words on hand to counter conspiracies or to inform potential candidates of why we were initiated and remain brothers of the craft. If you don't think this information is needed, I will preface these two mottos with the word HOW "We Make Good Men Better" and "To Be One Ask One (2B1ASK1)".

Freemasonry in all its glory of rites is continuously looked at as mysterious and is often a misunderstood organization that has been cloaked in secrecy, this is very true for Prince Hall Masonry as well considering our Grand Lodge is 150+ years old. Despite its reputation, Freemasonry is not a secret society, but rather a fraternity that promotes morality, charity, and brotherhood among its members. Many of you are jumping out of your skin right now, Brother Dale but, but, but. Yes, you are correct there are, however, certain secrets of Freemasonry that are only revealed to us that have been initiated, passed, and raised. In this article, we will explore the biggest secret in Freemasonry or what this secret is all about.

Many trace the origins of Freemasonry back to the guilds of Stonemasons and these guilds were exclusive organizations that held the secrets of their craft. Over time, however, the guilds began to admit non-masons into their ranks, and the fraternity of Freemasonry was born. One of the most well-known secrets of Freemasonry is the use of symbols and allegories to convey MORAL & ETHICAL lessons to its members. We use a variety of symbols, such as the square and compass, and acacia, to teach its members about the importance of morality, charity, and brotherhood. Each symbol has a specific meaning, and only those of us who have been initiated, passed, and raised into the fraternity are privy to these meanings.

Another shroud of Freemasonry secrecy is the use of secret passwords, handshakes, and rituals that are used to identify and recognize other brothers. As we all know these secret signs are not used for any nefarious purpose but are simply a way for us to identify one another and to establish TRUST & BROTHERHOOD among one another. Likely, the most recurring or intriguing comment you will run into is folks asking about the concept of "Light or Masonic Light." This is a direct reference to seeking knowledge, wisdom, and enlightenment. This knowledge helps you become BETTER MEN and contribute to the betterment of society. The biggest secret in Freemasonry is that it is a fraternity that seeks to MAKE GOOD MEN BETTER by promoting morality, charity, and brotherhood. It does this in several ways; here is the secret sauce in my humble opinion:

1. **Moral and Ethical Instruction:** In Freemasonry, we use symbols, allegories, and teachings to impart moral and ethical lessons to our members. These lessons are designed to help men live more virtuous lives and to become better citizens of their communities.
2. **Brotherhood and Fellowship:** Freemasonry provides a sense of brotherhood and fellowship to its members. By joining the fraternity, men become part of a community of like-minded individuals who share a common set of values and principles. This sense of fellowship can be very powerful and can help men to feel more connected to their communities.
3. **Charitable Works:** In Freemasonry, we place a strong emphasis on charity. Through its various charitable programs and initiatives, Freemasonry seeks to make a positive impact on the world and help those in need. By participating in these charitable works, men can develop a sense of purpose and meaning in their lives.
4. **Self-Improvement:** Freemasonry encourages its members to strive for self-improvement. By seeking knowledge, enlightenment, and personal growth, men can become better versions of themselves and can make a positive impact on the world around them.

In conclusion, despite the shroud of secrecy that surrounds the craft, our fraternity is quite open about our beliefs and service. Freemasonry is not a religion, and although it does require a belief in a Supreme Being, it does not require its members to adhere to any faith or creed. Instead, it promotes the values of morality, charity, and brotherhood, and encourages its members to live their lives according to these principles. Overall, Freemasonry seeks to make men better by promoting morality, charity, brotherhood, and self-improvement. By participating in the fraternity, men can develop a sense of purpose, meaning, and connection to their communities, and can make a positive impact on the world. Please visit our Grand Lodge website for more information. Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, Jurisdiction of Alabama – Birmingham, Alabama (mwphglofal.org).

Contributor – Bro. Bakari P. Dale (No. 778)

From Whence We've Come...

Reprinted from July 2022 edition.

The Saga of the Scottish Rite in Alabama: Part 1

When one enters the portals of the mysteries and fraternal bonds of this time-honored institution, members eagerly continue their desire to satiate their appetite for *more light in masonry*. Thus, the newly raised Master Mason then looks to either the York Rite or Scottish Rite for many reasons, albeit ambitious feet, genuine inquisitiveness, a study of the mysteries or merely gaining a more comfortable understanding of the breadth of Freemasonry.

Prince Hall Freemasonry in Alabama has historically upheld a well-maintained national platform of respect amongst its peers. So much so, that each era has seen Alabama in the membership ranks of the Fraternity nationally.

The Ancient & Accepted Rite, commonly referred to in modern times as the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry (Scottish Rite) is no exception. Scottish Rite Freemasonry first landed in the state of Alabama, as early as 1887-1889.

The first Alabama Mason to be initiated into the Scottish Rite was Bro. O. C. Clayborne. Bro. Clayborne was advanced as a Sublime Prince in the Orient of Louisiana.

The Devil in Disguise – The Rise and Fall of John G. Jones

In 1895, a well-respected and rising star in Prince Hall Freemasonry by the name of John G. Jones (JGJ) would initiate a concerted effort to destroy the fabric of Prince Hall Freemasonry throughout the country. JGJ is best known for his position as the Grand Imperial Potentate of the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. While he held high esteem in the Shrine, he was also an influential figure in the African American political and social scenes, to include his leadership roles in the PHGL of Illinois and the USC-SJ.

JGJ's status and political prowess would see his ascent into the ranks of the USC-SJ. Sovereign Grand Commander Thornton A. Jackson would appoint him as a Deputy for the USC-SJ and he would be elected Grand Chancellor. While his upward trajectory in the Shrine and African American politics created a strong following, his personality and callous nature fostered a cancerous ill-content within the ranks and leadership of Prince Hall Freemasonry, to include SGC Thornton Jackson.

In 1894, SGC Jackson would attend the World's Fair in Chicago at another meeting of leaders in Prince Hall Freemasonry. SGC Jackson would utilize this meeting to confer both the degrees of the Order of the Eastern Star on numerous Prince Hall leaders, to include, then Grand Master of Alabama, Major Rueben R. Mims. Jackson would also confer the degrees of the Scottish Rite on leaders there, as well.

At this same gathering, JGJ would be shunned from the meetings, just as he was the previous year, but used his status as Grand Imperial Potentate to leverage access to leadership of Prince Hall Freemasonry. During his meetings he created a rift with masonic leaders in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Ohio. These actions would ultimately lead to his descent in the ranks of the Scottish Rite.

The following year, on October 21, 1895, at the Annual Session of the USC-SJ, JGJ would arrive to the Executive Session following the close of the Shrine's Annual Session, held in Washington, DC. JGJ attended the Executive Session and requested to be excused given his fatigue from the meetings he'd attended. SGC Jackson excused JGJ from the meeting and elections for the USC-SJ began immediately. JGJ was currently serving as Lieutenant Grand Commander and the body of leadership ultimately demoted JGJ down two stations to the position of Illustrious Grand Chancellor.

The following morning JGJ would learn of his demotion and call a meeting at the home of Dorsey Seville and illegally advance and elevate 18 men as Honorary Grand Inspectors General and proceeded to organize a clandestine, spurious, irregular and bogus self-styled United Supreme Council. Within a week, JGJ, being a licensed attorney, rushed to incorporate his clandestine organization by taking the name of the original organization, which was designated, United Supreme Council, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern & Western Jurisdiction. This allowed them to own the name legally as a business, but neither any Masonic authority nor Masonic Regularity.

In light of JGJ's standing via the Shrine, politically, and the PHGL of Illinois, he was able to dupe hundreds of unsuspecting Prince Hall Masons and members of the Shrine across the country into becoming members of his self-styled clandestine body. This would ultimately lead to stark divisions of Prince Hall Grand Lodges and a breach of *peace & harmony*; thereby, irreparably harming Prince Hall Ancient Craft Masonry. The ultimate ends would see a series of clandestine Grand Lodges established and solidify the ultimate birth of clandestine Freemasonry amongst people of color in the United States. Of which, JGJ would be the Father of Clandestine Freemasonry in America.

Clandestine Scottish Rite Freemasonry Slithers its way into Alabama

On August 4, 1898, JGJ visited Birmingham and establish St. Joseph's Temple and a Council of Royal & Select Masters. JGJ would also constitute a clandestine Consistory, entitled Red Cross. Wm. R. Taylor was appointed as the Deputy for the Orient of Alabama by JGJ.

The inaugural elected officers of Red Cross Consistory were:

- Wm. R. Taylor – Commander-in-Chief
- Allen Moore – 1st Lt.
- D.W. Daniels – 2nd Lt.
- R.S. Hoover – Gr. Minster of State
- G.W. Mitchell – Gr. Chancellor
- A.A. McClanahan – Gr. Secretary
- O.S. Saunders – Gr. Treasurer
- Wm. Davis – Gr. Master of Ceremonies

Beware of Greeks Bearing Gifts

For years Red Cross Consistory struggled to thrive in Alabama, under JGJ. The state of Alabama was not aware of Red Cross Consistory's status due to failing communication at that era and also JGJ's prowess within Prince Hall Freemasonry.

Even the strongest of leaders can be duped into clandestine masonry. As an example, in 1901, Grand Master Henry C. Binford, Sr., Gr. Treasurer H.C. Harris, and Gr. Secretary Henry C. Binford, Jr., were all duped into becoming members of and participating in the JGJ body. Bro. Harris was previously a member of the real USC-SJ; however, he served as an officer in the JGJ Imperial Grand Council. (**Note:** We are not aware of why Harris worked briefly within the JGJ Clandestine body.)

Shortly thereafter, on April 7, 1902, GM H.C. Binford, Sr. and Gr. Treasurer H.C. Harris were elevated to the 33° and Gr. Secretary H.C. Binford, Jr. was advanced to the 32°, at the Inaugural Grand Masonic Congress. Minutes of the USC-SJ highlight their irregularities were healed by SGC Thornton Jackson.

GM Binford was livid concerning the JGJ matter and utilized his paper, *The Journal*, to publish articles from several news outlets regarding JGJ being deemed a “Fakir”.

“John G. Jones a Fakir

- The negro journals are denouncing as a fake one John G. Jones, an expelled negro Mason, who is travelling over the country establishing lodges of Blue Masons, consistories and shrines. Let the craft track him down and make him bite the dust – *Star of Zion*, Charlotte, N.C.
- We have been saying something like this on the quiet for a long time, but never made any publicity of it. This is the same and identical John G. Jones that was refused admission to the Masonic Congress which met in Chicago, August 23rd, 1893. – *The New Light*

Scottish Rite Regularity Returned to Alabama

In 1897, a young prosperous entrepreneur, well-connected businessman and Prince Hall Freemason hailing from the PHGL of the District of Columbia would move to Alabama, by the name of Bro. H.C. Harris, 33°. Bro. Harris would herald many Masonic leadership positions before his move to the *Yellow Hammer* state. He served as a Past Master, held numerous offices in DC’s York Rite bodies, most notably, Most Excellent Grand High Prince of the Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons of the District of Columbia. His most important role at the time was his position as a Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, under the United Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Southern Jurisdiction, USA (USC-SJ). Given Bro. Harris’ background and respected status in the order, he would soon spring to leadership status in the PHGL of Alabama. In 1904, H.C. Harris would be made a Deputy of the USC-SJ for Alabama and would be elected and coronated an Active Member.

This concludes this installment of “The Saga of the Scottish Rite in Alabama: Part 1”. In Part 2, we will unveil how the Scottish Rite began to thrive under the USC-SJ and how Regular Scottish Rite Freemasonry flourished in this state.

RW Dr. L. Ken Collins, II

Grand Historian

A Blast from the Past

WELCOME...

July 1966



Dr. E. W. TAGGART
Grand District Deputy
District Fourteen

We wish to extend a most cordial welcome to the Grand Lodge officers, members of the Grand Lodge, Master Masons, Wardens and brothers of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama. You are to be congratulated upon this your 96th Annual Communication (88 since consolidation) for the progress made across the years in the area of moral, spiritual, charitable and economic endeavor. You have indeed been a factor for good to all the people in the great commonwealth of Alabama, and we of District Number Fourteen, comprising Jefferson County with 65 Lodges and approximately 5,000 members are happy to have you as our guests. Our committees and members have worked untiringly to make your visit comfortable, pleasurable, and profitable and you will find them on hand to continue to serve you. Call upon them to do so.

Deep Appreciation and Gratitude are expressed to the Grand Master, Brother Charles V. Hendley, and his staff, to our Endowment Secretary, Brother S. J. Bennett, and his staff ; to our Grand Auditor, Brother W. H. Carter; all of our committee chairmen; Worshipful Masters, Wardens, and members of the Order of Eastern Star in this District and many others, for their fine cooperation and many contributions to the planning of this Grand Lodge meeting.

E. W. TAGGART, G. D. D.

\$ Dollars and Sense \$

Money Management

Debt Consolidation

Are you scrambling each month to pay your credit card, school loan or other debt payments on time? According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, non-housing debt owned by American households reached \$4.17 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2020. Whether it is paying off the high balances and interest rates of multiple credit cards or just simply trying to better manage your finances, debt consolidation may be an option for you.

What is Debt Consolidation?

Debt consolidation is the act of combining several loans or liabilities into one new loan. This allows you to pay off multiple debts through one centralized loan, providing a much simpler repayment plan and, in some cases, a lower overall interest rate. Debt consolidation, unlike a debt settlement, still requires that you pay off your entire debt to avoid negatively affecting your credit score.

There are two types of consolidation loans. A secured loan requires property to secure against the repayment of the loan. For example, a mortgage uses the house as security for repayment of the loan. In return for the use of an asset as collateral, the secured loan typically carries a lower interest rate, which can lead to lower monthly payments. This obviously puts the asset used as collateral at risk.

Common examples of secured loan debt consolidation include refinancing your home, taking out a second mortgage and borrowing against your automobile as collateral.

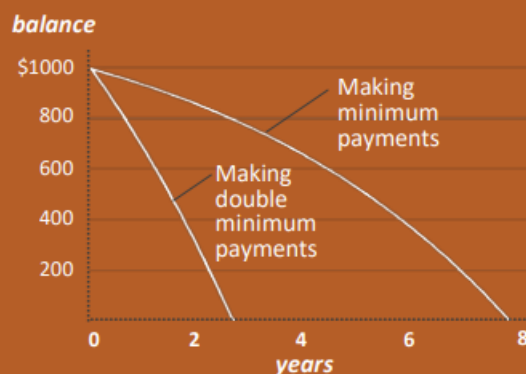
Unsecured loans, conversely, do not require a collateral asset to secure a loan. This increases the risk for the lender, which typically translates to a higher interest on the loan. While unsecured consolidated loans were more common in the recent past, today they require much better credit scores to qualify.

Direct Consolidation Loans for Students

After graduation, most federal student loans can be consolidated to simplify loan repayment, potentially lower monthly payments or offer alternative repayment plans. A common debt consolidation option is a Direct Consolidation Loan. Private education loans are not eligible for consolidation with a Direct Consolidation Loan.

Pay down debt faster

Paying just the minimum on a credit card can drag out the loan for years. Get rid of bad debt faster by paying extra each month.



For illustrative purposes only

Is Debt Consolidation for You?

Debt consolidation is not for everyone, and doesn't always equal savings. While lower interest rates and monthly payments may be a good short-term idea, it can also lead to paying more money over the lifetime of the consolidated loan. There is also an inherent risk that goes along with consolidating unsecured debt into secured debt.

Opponents of debt consolidation claim that it only treats a symptom, not the overall issue. What this means is that while it may be simpler to pay off a consolidated debt loan, it is up to the individual to truly master money management skills and avoid excessive amounts of debt in the future.

There are alternatives to debt consolidation. One method is the debt - snowball method, which calls for paying off your smallest accounts first while paying the minimum balance on larger accounts. After the smallest account is paid, you then move on the next smallest and continue until you've paid off your debt. If a self-reliant plan is not enough, other alternatives to debt consolidation include credit counseling, debt settlement and personal bankruptcy. It is important to note, however, that debt settlements and personal bankruptcy can negatively affect your credit scores and ability to acquire future loans.

Conclusion

Before you consolidate your debt, make sure you fully understand the benefits and potential pitfalls. Debt consolidation is not meant to be an immediate fix to your debt problems and comes with some serious trade-offs, including larger payments over the long term and potential loss of property. However, the simplicity of one centralized, manageable payment can provide the structure and lower payments to help your financial picture immediately.

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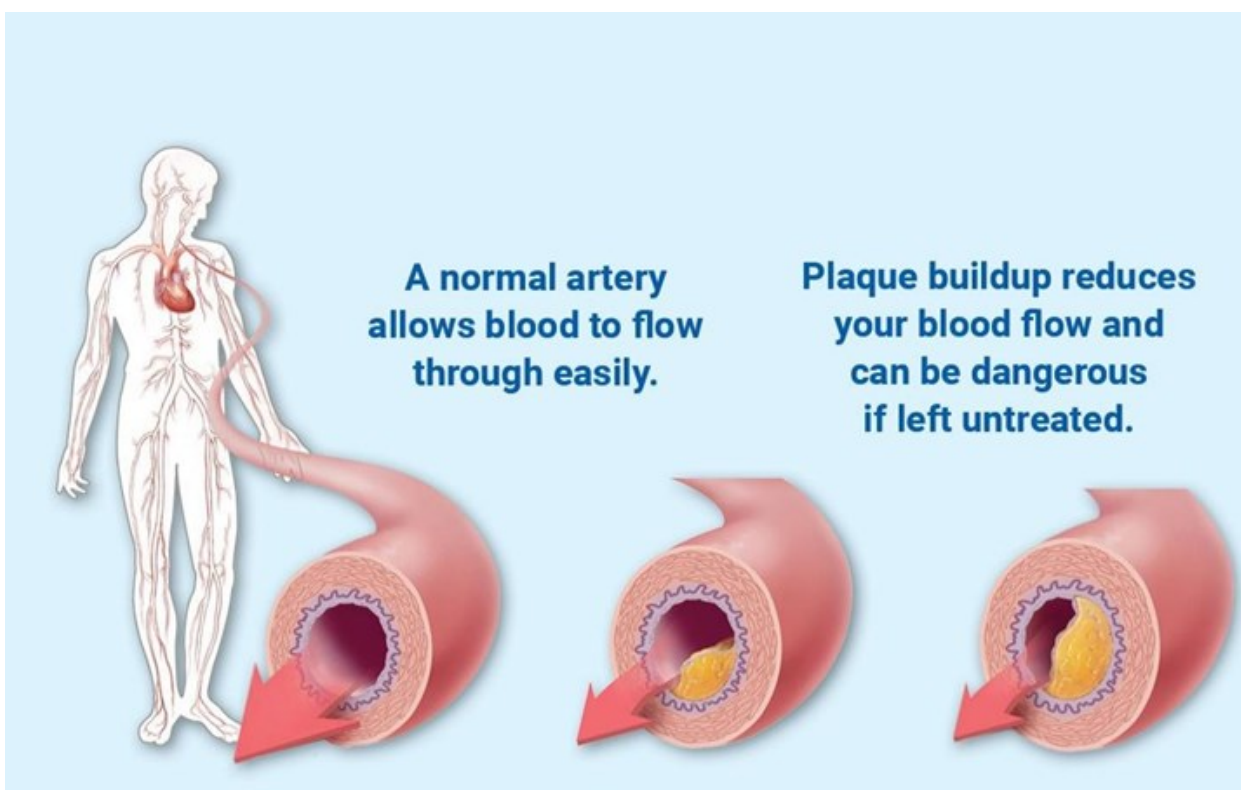
*Contributor – RW Gregory Clark
 Convention Coordinator/Corporate Liaison
 and Financial Planner*

HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Strategies to prevent heart disease

Heart disease is a leading cause of death, but it's not inevitable. While you can not change some risk factors such as family history, sex, or age. There are plenty of ways you can reduce your risk of heart disease. You can prevent heart disease by following a heart-healthy lifestyle. Here are strategies to help in boosting your heart health and protect your heart.



1. Don't smoke or use tobacco

One of the best things you can do for your heart is to stop smoking or using smokeless tobacco. Even if you're not a smoker, be sure to avoid secondhand smoke.

Chemicals in tobacco can damage the heart and blood vessels. Cigarette smoke reduces the oxygen in the blood, which increases blood pressure and heart rate because the heart has to work harder to supply enough oxygen to the body and brain. The risk of heart disease starts to drop in as little as a day after quitting. After a year without cigarettes, the risk of heart disease drops to about half that of a smoker. No matter how long or how much you smoked, you'll start reaping rewards as soon as you quit.

2. Get moving: Aim for at least 30 to 60 minutes of activity daily

Regular, daily physical activity can lower the risk of heart disease. Physical activity helps control your weight. It also reduces the chances of developing other conditions that may put a strain on the heart, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and type 2 diabetes. If you haven't been active for a while, you may need to slowly work your way to 150 minutes a week of moderate aerobic exercise, such as walking at a brisk pace up to these goals.

3. Eat a heart-healthy diet

A healthy diet can help protect the heart, improve blood pressure and cholesterol, and reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes.

A heart-healthy eating plan includes:

- Vegetables and fruits
- Beans or other legumes
- Lean meats and fish
- Low-fat or fat-free dairy foods
- Whole grains
- Healthy fats, such as olive oil

Limit intake of the following:

- Salt
- Sugar
- Processed carbohydrates
- Alcohol
- Saturated fat (found in red meat and full-fat dairy products) and trans fat (found in fried fast food, chips, and baked goods)

4. Maintain a healthy weight

Being overweight, especially around the middle of the body increases the risk of heart disease. Excess weight can lead to conditions that increase the chances of developing heart disease including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and type 2 diabetes.

The body mass index (BMI) uses height and weight to determine whether a person is overweight or obese. A BMI of 25 or higher is considered overweight and is generally associated with higher cholesterol, higher blood pressure, and an increased risk of heart disease and stroke.

Waist circumference also can be a useful tool to measure how much belly fat you have. The risk of heart disease is higher if the waist measurement is greater than:

- 40 inches for men
- 35 inches for women

Even a small weight loss can be beneficial. Reducing weight by just 3% to 5% can help decrease certain fats in the blood, lower blood sugar, and reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes. Losing, even more, helps lower blood pressure and blood cholesterol level.

5. Get good quality sleep

People who don't get enough sleep have a higher risk of obesity, high blood pressure, heart attack, diabetes, and depression. Most adults need at least seven hours of sleep each night. Make sleep a priority in your life. Set a sleep schedule and stick to it by going to bed and waking up at the same time each day. Keep your bedroom dark and quiet, so it's easier to sleep.

6. Manage stress

Some people cope with stress in unhealthy ways such as overeating, drinking, or smoking. Finding alternative ways to manage stress such as physical activity, relaxation exercises or meditation can help improve your health.

7. Get regular health screenings

High blood pressure and high cholesterol can damage the heart and blood vessels. But without testing for them, you probably won't know whether you have these conditions. Regular screening can tell you what your numbers are and whether you need to take action.

Blood pressure

Regular blood pressure screenings usually start in childhood. Starting at age 18, blood pressure should be measured at least once every two years to screen for high blood pressure as a risk factor for heart disease and stroke.

If you're between 18 and 39 and have risk factors for high blood pressure, you'll likely be screened once a year. People age 40 and older also are given a blood pressure test yearly.

Cholesterol levels

Adults generally have their cholesterol measured at least once every four to six years. Cholesterol screening usually starts at age 20, though earlier testing may be recommended if you have other risk factors, such as a family history of early-onset heart disease.

Type 2 diabetes screening

Diabetes is a risk factor for heart disease. If you have risk factors for diabetes, such as being overweight or having a family history of diabetes, your healthcare provider may recommend early screening. If not, screening is recommended beginning at age 40, with retesting every two years.

If you have a condition such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure, or diabetes, your healthcare provider may prescribe medications and recommend lifestyle changes. Make sure to take your medications as your health care provider prescribes and follow a healthy lifestyle plan.

STAY HEALTHY STAY SAFE!!!!

Miguel L Ferguson, BSN, MPH, RN

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:

Right Worshipful Dennis Simmons

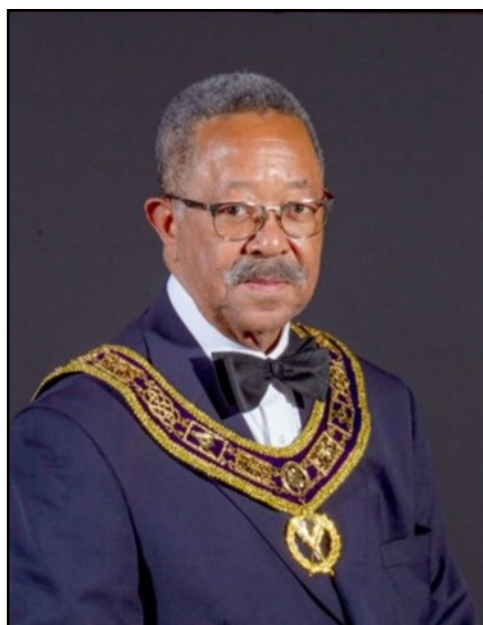
Right Worshipful Dennis Simmons, a distinguished and accomplished Masonic leader, has served as Worshipful Master of Council No. 778 for 40 years, since 1982. Brother Simmons has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to his craft and has tirelessly worked to advance the cause of freemasonry through his leadership, vision, and unwavering dedication.

A talented and sound masonic leader, Brother Simmons is a true leader in every sense of the word, offering decades of honed experience in freemasonry and demonstrating a deep understanding of the craft. He has always been responsible for communicating a sharp vision for Master Masons and has leveraged his in-depth knowledge of masonic business to advance opportunities to achieve fraternal growth. His contributions to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Alabama have been invaluable, and he has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow brothers for his exemplary service.

A devoted family man, born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, Brother Simmons is a devoted father to his adult children, Bridgett and Nigel, and a loving husband to his wife, Carolyn. He is the sixth of ten children (fifth son), with seven boys and three girls to his parents Claude H and May G Simmons. An interesting masonic fact about Brother Simmons is that he is a second-generation master mason; his father was raised in Geometry 410 under Shade Herron. He graduated from Carver High School and has served as the Deacon Board Chairman at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.

A Distinguished Career, Brother Simmons spent most of his career with ACIPCO, Ductile Iron & Pipe Company, where he honorably worked and retired from in 2016, after serving for 42 years. He has also been a resolute member and leader of the Council Masonic Lodge No. 778 of the MWPHGL of Alabama since June 1979. He was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on June 15th, 1979, and has held various leadership positions, including Worshipful Master (40 years), Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and member of the degree team. He has also served as Banquet Committee Chair since December 1st, 1985.

Council Lodge No. 778 received its charter August 2, 1924, by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M. of Alabama, Prince Hall Affiliation. Council brothers are extremely selective in electing its Worshipful Masters. Council has only had four Worshipful Masters: P.M. Jesse B. Barker founding Worshipful Master 1924-1940 and 1945-59, P.M. William M. Hill 1941-1945, P.M. Willie J. Crawford 1959-1982. In 1982 Council elected its next and current Worshipful Master Dennis Simmons.



RW Dennis Simmons

Brother Simmons has had a remarkable masonic journey, and his contributions to the craft have been significant. He was appointed Right Worshipful Grand Endowment Secretary of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Alabama on January 3rd, 2017, and has been a former Administrative Assistant to the Grand Master. He has also served as the Special District Deputy of Masonic District No. 14 since June 1st, 2019. He has been a member of the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama Credentials Committee since July 15th, 1985, and has served as its Chairman since 1995.

Brother Simmons has also been an active member of several other masonic organizations, including African Lodge No. 459 of the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. Jurisdiction of Massachusetts, Zerubbabel Chapter No. 3 Holy Royal Arch Masons, J.W. Hudson Council No. 10 Royal & Select Masters, Persia Commandery No. 2 Knights Templar, and Red Cross Consistory No. 2.

In closing, Brother Simmons has received several recognitions and honors for his outstanding service to the craft. Well done and congratulations! May he continue to be a beacon of light for many to follow. No words can express the level of his dedication and commitment to the craft. Please join me in celebrating Brother Dennis Simmons 40 years of service as Worshipful Master in the Great State of Alabama.

Achievements

PM Aundrea Thomas Receives Outstanding Service Award

On February 17, 2023, PM Aundrea Thomas, Secretary of Stillman Lodge No. 490 received the 2022 Outstanding Service Award from the National Alumni Association of Stillman College. PM. Thomas graduated from Stillman College in 1990 and has served on the Board of Directors since 2014. PM. Thomas also serves as the Vice President of the Tuscaloosa Alumni Chapter. With over 30 years as an active member of Stillman Lodge No. 490, PM. Thomas still finds joy in providing service to his community.



Military Affairs

Keeping our MWPHGL of Alabama Veterans Informed

VA's commitment to Veterans regarding health care and benefits

The VA is committed to ensuring every Veteran is aware of the care and benefits they've earned by their service. Whether the veteran is new to VA or has been receiving care and benefits for years, veterans can now receive toxic exposure screening, and take steps to file a claim for toxic exposure. Although this effort is expected to draw many Veterans seeking assistance on recently passed legislation concerning toxic exposures (via the "PACT Act"), VA welcomes all Veterans and survivors seeking assistance for VA benefits and services.

VA is delivering more benefits, and quicker, to more Veterans than ever before. As of March 4, VA has received more than 362,000 toxic exposure-related claims from Veterans since the legislation passed on August 10, 2022. In the past six months, VA has completed nearly 158,000 PACT Act-related claims for all Veterans and survivors, including terminally ill Veterans.

Outreach initiatives, such as the ones currently underway, will continue for the foreseeable future until every Veteran or survivor has had an opportunity to learn more about the health care and benefits, they earned. For a complete listing, as well as other outreach events, see www.va.gov/outreach-and-events/events. For more information about the PACT Act, visit www.va.gov/PACT. For general questions about health care and benefits, go to www.va.gov

VA Geriatric Programs at a Glance

The GRECC (Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers) Connect program aims to improve access to geriatric care for Veterans in rural areas. This project allows elderly veterans to receive real-time virtual care from geriatricians, eliminating the need to travel long distances for specialty care. Since 2014, the GRECC Connect project has served more than 10,000 veterans, supported more than 4,700 providers and staff, and saved veterans nearly 890,000 miles of travel.

The Geriatric Scholars program trains local VA clinicians to provide care to older rural veterans helping to overcome the critical provider shortage in rural communities. Geriatric Scholars Program increases aging rural Veterans' access to quality care by integrating geriatrics into existing services at local VA community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs). Since 2008, the Geriatric Scholars program has trained more than 1,000 VA clinicians. Those providers have collectively served more than 680,000 Veterans. Gerofit uses telehealth to connect rural Veterans over the age of 65 with exercise programming to improve their physical and mental health and overall well-being. Veterans receive guidance from trained exercise staff, including physiologists, nurses, and physical therapists. Gerofit is now offered at 30 VA Health Care Systems. To find a location near you go to www.va.gov/geriatrics.

*Contributor – RW Carlton Jones
Committee on Military and Veteran Affairs*

REGION 2

News and Events from Region 2

Goshen Lodge No. 132 Assists in Final Last Rites

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them. – REVELATIONS 14:13



Around town, Mr. Preston O. Sanders, Past Grand Master of the State of Missouri from 1983 to 1987, was affectionately called “Pete the Bug Man” because when he moved back to his hometown of Marion, Alabama in 1988, he started and operated the city’s first and only pest control business - Marion Pest Control. This was a continuation of a similar business he started in St. Louis, Missouri in 1972, with his sons called- Sanders Pest and Termite Control.

On Saturday, March 4, 2023, the brothers of Goshen Lodge No. 132, along with a Grand delegation from Missouri, had the distinct honor and privilege of participating in bidding a final farewell to Past Grand Master Sanders. To briefly detail a life well-lived, the following is Past Grand Master Sanders’ obituary:

“Preston O. Sanders was born to Naomi Ruth Sanders-Munden on August 21, 1927, in Marion, AL. He was baptized at Berean Baptist Church in 1939 at the age of 12 under the leadership of Rev. E.B. Radden, where he confessed Christ as his Lord and Savior. He attended Lincoln Normal School, a school that was established for the education of freedmen after the Civil War from 1940-1946.

In 1945 he wed the mother of his children. In 1946 he entered the armed forces and was stationed in Adak, Alaska (Aleutian Island) during WWII and was honorably discharged in 1947. In 1947 he moved to St. Louis, MO where he began his career with the government in the Department of Army Records until 1951. He was among the first group of African American men to be employed with Bi-State Public Transportation in 1951-52. In 1952 he began employment with the Aeronautical Chart & Information Center until his retirement in 1982. While employed with the government, he was sent to the Naval Air Station in Alameda, CA where he was licensed in Entomology in March 1967. This educational opportunity with Disease Vector Control was because soldiers were dying in higher numbers as a result of insect diseases than by enemy bullets. This occasion also allowed him to begin Sanders Pest & Termite Control in 1972 where his sons governed the operation with contracts from the government, the Board of Education, hospitals, and residential with several employees. When he returned to AL in 1988, he began the Marion Pest Control, where his sons again continued the operation of the business.

During his working tenure in St. Louis, he joined the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F&AM of Missouri in 1960. He held such offices from Grand Secretary, Grand Jr. Warden, Grand Sr. Warden, and Deputy Grand Master to the highest position of Grand Master for two (2) consecutive two-year terms. He has noted the youngest Grand Master of the state of Missouri (at his appointment). In 2004, he received a life membership after 40+ years of uninterrupted service as a Free and Accepted Mason (F&AM). Additional affiliations include Square Deal Lodge No. 159, Royal Arch No. 59, William Moses No. 59, Medinah Shriners No. 39 – Honorary Past Potentate, Pride of the West (Eastern Star), Heroine Court of Jericho, Daughters of Siren and Ladies of Mercy to name a few.

His Masonic accomplishments far exceed what can be penned in this obituary, but to reference just a few would include Bonding, Brothers & Sisters Club, Credit Union, Security Guards, Restored Scholarship funding, and last but not least, the BINGO system which to date makes a paramount and sustaining contribution to the Masonic order.

Upon returning to his birthplace, his accomplishments and offices held include: Deacon of Berean Baptist Church, Chairman of the Trustee Board (Berean Convention Center), Chairman of the Berean Head Start, which his mother (Naomi Ruth Munden) pioneered in the early '60s, Trustee Emeritus Marion Military Institute (2007-2022), Perry County Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the 500-acre Vaiden Field Airport Authority (1993-2020) where a once crop-duster airport used as a touchdown field was renovated into a \$14 million commercial runway with a pilot lounge, additional hangars, fuel system, air weather station, and the Military Institute "Flying Tigers Pilot" program was implemented.

On Sunday, February 19, 2023, Mr. Sanders entered into a well-deserved eternal rest. Preceded him in death was one son, Ralph Sanders. He leaves to treasure his fond and loving memories of three sons, Willis O. Sanders (Tameka), Charles L. Sanders (Julie), Michael Sanders, and Jacqueline C. Sanders-Jones; 15 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and a countless number of devoted family members and treasured friends. He will be profoundly missed!" – Obituary of PGM Preston O. "Pete" Sanders.

As a final symbol of love and respect to PGM Sanders, a native son of Marion, Alabama, who ascended to the highest height of masonry-Grand Master, the brothers of Goshen Lodge, No. 132, donated a special inscribed grave ledger.

Contributor – Bro. Robert D. Bryant (No. 132)

Morrow Grove Lodge No. 800

Supporting Its Community

The brothers of Morrow Grove Lodge No. 800 made a monetary donation to the Bottoms Up Diaper Bank of Greene County in January 2023. This was the second donation made to the organization in two years. Bottoms Up was founded in 2016 with the goal to help families with babies. It is a non-profit organization that serves families directly. Bottoms Up does not have an income requirement; only for a family to have a desire to keep their baby clean, dry, & healthy. The brothers of Morrow Grove wanted to help the Diaper Bank alleviate some of the pressure on families who struggle with having an adequate supply of diapers and baby essentials. Some may ask, “What is a Diaper Bank?” Diaper banks or diaper pantries are similar to food banks. They collect diapers and other baby essentials to be distributed to families or other programs that serves families. An adequate supply of diapers is a basic need for all infants, as necessary for health and well-being as food and shelter. It was important for the lodge members to assist in providing families the support and resources to help reduce diaper needs in their local community.

Contributor – WM Robert Stewart (No. 800)



WM Robert Stewart (r) presenting donation check to Bottoms Up Executive Director Danielle Edison-Lee.



Workers in the Diaper Bank during distribution day

REGION 4

News and Events from Region 4

Hamilton Lodge No. 365 Continues Its Community Service

On the night of February 18, 2023, Hamilton Lodge No. 365 hosted its first-ever adult prom in Montgomery, Alabama to raise funds for scholarship awards and other charitable endeavors the lodge engages in throughout the year. The event was a huge success and received overwhelming support from the community of Montgomery, AL, and the surrounding area. Over 200 guests attended the prom, which was an opportunity for adults to dress up and enjoy an evening out with their significant other. The prom featured a contest for the prom king and queen where the winners were decided based on donations via a website where anyone could donate to their choice for each. District No. Eight's own District Deputy Parks and his wife received the most share of support, crowning them Prom King and Queen for 2023. The entire night was filled with fun, sincere appreciation for one another, and genuine admiration among all. This event brought to mind a quote from one of our great institution's most revered members. "To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a Masonic institution; and it is most fervently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the fraternity, as well as those publications, that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race." - George Washington-Letter to the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, January 1793...

Following the life-changing storms that swept through Selma, Alabama in March 2023 members of Hamilton Lodge assisted in the cleanup of that historic city. Additionally in March 2023, the brothers donated hand sanitizer and paper towels to the Macmillan International Academy for Humanities, Communications, and Technology. Not slowing down in March 2023, the brothers led by WM Belser, held a bingo game for residents at the Capitol Hill assisted living facility in Montgomery, AL. The lodge ensured all bingo players received a monetary prize.

Contributor – Bro. Marion Avery Dortch, Jr. (No. 365)



Phoenix Lodge No. 428 Celebrates Milestone of PM Hugh Dawkins

Birthdays come and go, but celebrating becoming 90 years young is a milestone. The elderly long for care, love, and affection. Understanding their needs and concerns will ensure their continued good health. Providing emotional support to elders keep them jovial, which is an inevitable ideal way to live a healthy life. It's always a great time to celebrate life with a brother, on such a special occasion of life. The brothers of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 want Bro. Dawkins to know that he has a special place in their hearts. Showing brotherly love to the oldest member of the lodge on his birthday in February, PM Hugh Dawkins, 90 years young.



Phoenix Lodge No. 428 Assists Ridgecrest Elementary



Children are the future of the world. They are going to be the leaders of tomorrow, whose choices will directly affect future generations. Children are pliable, so it's up to us to mold them well and send them in the right direction. On March 31st, the brothers of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 assisted Ridgecrest Elementary with their Annual Career Day. They escorted speakers and parents to their assigned rooms, participated as presenters, and they were readily available to fill in as needed to help make this a successful event.

Contributor – Bro. Jermaine Phillips (No. 428)

South Griffin Lodge No. 697

Supporting Its Local School



Top: Meadowlane Elementary School Read Across America with brothers of South Griffin Lodge No. 697

Bottom: Brothers of South Griffin Lodge No. 697 donate several bicycles to support Meadowlane Elementary School Perfect Attendance Program



On March 2, 2023, South Griffin Lodge No. 697 showed support for the Annual Read Across America Day at Meadowlane Elementary School in Phenix City. Brothers from the lodge dedicated their time to reading books in some of the classrooms. The kids were excited to have visitors and showed appreciation and attention to the reading from the brothers.

Read Across America Day is an annual celebration that encourages children and adults alike to pick up a book and read. This celebration is held annually in March and is organized by the National Education Association (NEA) in partnership with various organizations. Read Across America Day is celebrated in schools, libraries, and communities across the country. Reading is a fundamental skill that impacts every aspect of our lives. Unfortunately, only 18% of black 4th graders scored proficient or above, according to national tests in 2019. The figure for white 4th graders was 45%. South Griffin Lodge understood the importance of supporting the efforts to promote reading and will continue to partner with the school in its community.

On March 3rd, South Griffin Lodge No. 697 donated several bicycles to support the Perfect Attendance Program at Meadowlane Elementary School. Worshipful Master David Harper made it a priority for the lodge to support the school. He and some of the brothers secured donations to help purchase the bikes and dedicated their time to assembling the bikes. The students with perfect attendance and no tardies from March 1 to May 18 were entered into the drawing to win a bicycle. Research shows that school attendance is a powerful predictor of the success of students. In most cases, strong attendance correlates with academic success, and poor attendance correlates with academic struggles.

Contributor – Bro. Oree Heard, Jr. (No. 697)

REGION 5

News and Events from Region 5

Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 Continues to be Active in its Community

Under the leadership and guidance of Worshipful Master Gerren K. Whitlock, Sr. 33° and with the proper authorization from Most Worshipful Grand Master Dr. Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq. 33°, early in the year 2022, Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 began planning and preparing for their inaugural Masonic Table Lodge Ceremony.

What exactly is a Table Lodge? The ceremonies of conducting a Table Lodge may be traced over two centuries in English Masonry and detailed records exist of their even earlier observances in France. The ancient customs of proposing a drinking toast by our Scottish brethren is recorded during the reign of King James the First of Scotland in 1430. It has been stated that “the Table Lodge is the summary of Masonic doctrine”. It prescribed reverence for Divinity and moral law. It strengthened the devotion that Masons held for their Lodges and their Country. It strengthened the unity and fellowship of the Craft.

The Table Lodge is a Lodge of Entered Apprentices to enable the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft an opportunity to benefit from table instruction and to enjoy Masonic fellowship early in his Masonic life. Although a Table Lodge should be relaxed and enjoyable, it is; however, a Masonic Ceremony and a certain amount of dignity and decorum must be observed. The same precautions should be taken for a regular lodge meeting, and all present must be masons. A Table Lodge is opened on the Entered Apprentice degree and authorized by dispensation from the Grand Master for a specific time, place, and occasion. Thus, arrangements should be made for proper tiling of the dining room throughout the Table Lodge observance. Any guests must be masons, and the membership of any visiting brethren should be verified.

Armed with this knowledge and a lot of strategic planning, on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at Don Hawkins Recreation Center, the brothers of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 hosted their Inaugural Masonic Table Lodge Ceremony. Their guests included District Fourteen’s Grand District Deputy Walter Greene, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, Officers, and Brothers from various Masonic Lodges. Dedicated Toasts were given, and a beautiful and knowledgeable Lecture was given by the Guest Speaker, Brother John Radford who hails from Early Star Lodge No. 395 located in Oak Bowery, Alabama.



The ceremony was a great success. The Brothers of Lodge No. 319 sent a special thanks to Grand Master Dr. Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq., 33°, Grand District Deputy Walter Greene, Worshipful Master Gerren K. Whitlock, Sr., Bro. John Radford for serving as their guest speaker, all of the honored guests, and all of the brothers of Lodge No. 319 that helped to make this event a huge success.

While traveling along Highway 78 in the Forestdale area of Birmingham you will notice signs that read: ADOPT-A-MILE PROGRAM; THIS SECTION OF ROADSIDE ADOPTED BY PRIDE OF NORTH BIRMINGHAM LODGE No. 319. Members of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 are honored to have adopted a mile on that stretch of Highway 78. This allows them to do their part in helping to keep the community clean and litter-free.

Due to the safety protocols placed on Masonic Lodges during the Covid-19 pandemic, Lodge No. 319 couldn't maintain its adopted area. However, as soon as the restrictions were lifted, Lodge No. 319 began planning a clean-up day. On Saturday, February 18th, Brothers of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 went out to Highway 78 in the Forestdale Community of Birmingham and maintained their adopted mile. Not only did they clean up the litter, but they also rededicated themselves to doing the work of keeping it clean and litter free.



An understanding of the importance of faith, fellowship, and camaraderie led Worshipful Master Gerren K. Whitlock Sr., to establish a program for the brothers of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 titled: Worship with the Bruhs series. The goal of Worship with the Bruhs series is to give the brothers of Lodge No. 319, as well as, their families the opportunity to visit a series of religious institutions where they may share their faith, and fellowship and build camaraderie throughout the years. So far this year the brothers of Lodge No. 319 have had the wonderful opportunity to visit several churches in Birmingham and Bessemer.

On Sunday, February 26, Lodge No. 319 worshipped with the congregation of St. James Independent Methodist Church in the Grasselli Heights community of Birmingham, Alabama where Reverend Clifford Ray is Pastor. Worshipping with St. James also allowed them to worship with their very own Past Master Dr. Maurice W. Myers and his family, as well as, Past Master Edward Douglas and Brothers of Hillman Lodge No. 108; where Brother Donald Davis serves as Worshipful Master.



Then on Sunday, March 12th, the brothers of Lodge No. 319 went out to Mulga, Alabama to worship and fellowship at Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church where their very own Past Master Timothy L. Sanford is Pastor. It was a great worship experience and fellowship. The fellowship at Shady Grove also led to becoming knowledgeable and finding an understanding of some community initiatives planned by Pastor Sanford and Mulga Community Development Corporation which inspires growth in the Mulga community. This led to additional support from the brothers of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319.



Contributor – Bro. Tony O. Lloyd (No. 319)

Stillman Lodge No. 490 Attends Selma's Bridge Crossing Re-enactment

On Sunday, March 5, 2023, several members of Stillman Masonic Lodge 490 participated in the 58th anniversary of the historical walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Each year, members of Stillman Lodge 490 attend this event to support our community activists and honor those who were beaten in the attempt to march for voting rights. There is strength in numbers. This year, Stillman Lodge had two members attend this event for the first time. Having the opportunity to be a part of this historic event is truly an honor.

Contributor – WM Patrick A. Sparks (No. 490)



P. S. Howard Lodge No. 516 Making a Difference



On Sunday, January 23, 2023, the brothers of P.S. Howard Lodge No. 516 partnered with the sisters of Brown Beauty Chapter No. 679, OES, and decided to provide a warm meal for the homeless around the Boutwell Auditorium, Kelly Ingram Park, Reconcile Homeless Shelter, and the Firehouse Shelter located in the City of Birmingham. Approximately 50 to 60 people were given a meal. The lodge will continue to serve its community to the best of its ability.

Contributor – PM Carlos D. Black (No. 516)

REGION 6

News and Events from Region 6

Center Star Lodge No. 25 Lends a Helping Hand

When hearing the call for help from the brothers and sisters near Selma, Alabama. Center Star Masonic Lodge No. 25 of Killen, AL was ready to lend a helping hand. With great assistance from Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Rogersville, AL, words turned into action. On January 26, 2023, Little Zion's church van was loaded full of non-perishable items and a few good men who traveled down to Selma. Supplies were delivered to First Baptist Church of Selma. In the photos taken are Center Star Lodge members WM Eric Fuqua, Sr., James Fuqua & Hudson Fuqua along with Little Zion's pastor Rev. Kourtney Wesley & member Connie Fuqua. Thanks to God for blessing the group with safe travel and to everyone involved with the willingness to help a community in need!

To the right is Brother Josh Fuqua, Secretary for Center Star Lodge No. 25, speaking on local Black History Facts covering Rogersville & Killen, Alabama communities. In attendance were youth from Rogersville churches and representatives from Warren's Chapter 353, Order of Eastern Star. The location for the event was the Rogersville Public Library on February 25th.

Contributor – Bro. Josh Fuqua (No. 25)



Temple Lodge No. 98 Continues Its Community Service Efforts

Temple Lodge No. 98 started the new year with service to the metro Huntsville, AL area. Despite an inclement weather forecast, on January 31, 2023, the dedicated brothers of Temple Lodge No. 98 weathered the elements to perform an Adopt-A-Mile cleanup which eradicated litter and de-cluttered: Lakewood Elementary School entrance to Kenwood Drive, the recreation fields adjacent to the school, including the House of Restoration Family Worship Center, the Lakewood Community Center, and Stringer Field. The brothers pictured did not let a weather forecast prevent them from living their obligation.

On March 25th, Bro. Frank Jackson established an inaugural community service for the lodge. Temple Lodge No. 98 gathered at the Meadowlawn Garden of Peace Cemetery, Huntsville, AL in remembrance of our deceased PM Leonard Tyrone Harris and, to aid the grounds caretakers, by cleaning the Veteran's Section of the cemetery. The brothers raked, swept, bagged, and tidied more than 50 gravesites while sharing memorable moments about PM Harris followed by a moving prayer offered by Temple Lodge No. 98's, Chaplain Michael Stevenson.

PM Leonard T. Harris' children visited the cleanup community service to express their gratitude for the kindness and support the lodge has shown throughout this difficult time. The brothers presented lodge mementos to them. Temple Lodge No. 98 concluded this now-yearly event with lunch at one of PM Leonard T. Harris's favorite spots to eat.

Contributor – WM Carl Cooney. (No. 98)



Brothers of Temple Lodge No. 98 performing their Adopt-A-Mile cleanup



Brothers of Temple Lodge No. 98 cleaning PM Leonard T. Harris' gravesite



WM Carl J. Cooney Jr. and PSW Frank Jackson explaining the community service event to PM Harris' son Tyrone Jr

Morning Star Lodge No. 50 Continues to Render Its Services

For the past seven years, the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 have partnered with Alabama PALs and the Alabama Department of Transportation to assist with the cleaning of their community. Morning Star Lodge No. 50 has taken the lead in ensuring that the mile in front of the Northwood Housing Authority complex on University Drive is clean and presentable. On Saturday, January 21, 2023, the brothers continued their pledge by taking to University Dr. at 7:00 a.m. to fulfill their obligation. Morning Star Lodge No. 50 takes pride in this community service project, and it has proven to be a nice time for unity and fellowship amongst the craft.

As Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons, Morning Star Lodge No. 50 prides itself on being humble in its great works and servitude without community and to each other. On February 25th, the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 partnered with Manna House of Huntsville, AL to service the needy in the community. Manna House provides meals, clothing, and other accessories to the needy in the community from different walks of life. Morning Star Lodge No. 50 was able to assist the Manna House by preparing and boxing food essentials for the community. The food gathered consisted of sweet potatoes, squash, boxes of canned goods, fruits, cakes, salad mix, water, juices, and toiletries. After the preparation phase, Morning Star Lodge No. 50 was humbled to pass out the boxes gathered to the patrons and cars waiting in line outside of the facility.

The brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 felt the community service was near to their hearts because of the relationships established with the patrons. The Manna House is a faith-based foundation that provides the necessities of a nutritious meal to sustain families from paycheck to paycheck. They have been a steeple in our community since 2004 and rely solely on the support of the community to operate. The brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 are excited to partner with this foundation and look forward to future projects.



Above: Brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 after their Adopt-A-Mile clean up.

Below: Brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 and family members assisting at the Manna House





Above: Brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 at their Annual Black and White Charity Ball

Below: Brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 at the Catholic Center of Concern clothing drive



On March 3rd, the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 held their 13th Annual Black and White Charity Ball at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, AL. This event has been held on the first Friday of March since 2008 under the leadership of Past Master Darrell Brown. The brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 started this event to support local organizations with a strong presence in the community and a financial need. The Black & White Charity Ball was established with these recipients in mind and to provide them with a platform to speak about the services of their organization so that everyone can support them from the community.

Under the leadership of Past Masters Anthony J. Johnson and H. Jerome Glover, the Charity Ball was moved to Huntsville's famed Von Braun Center in beautiful North Hall. During the past 13 years, with hard work, support, and dedication by the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50, charitable contributions have been made to such organizations as the National Association for the Prevention of Starvation (NAPS), the Triana Public Library, the Richard Showers Center Youth Program, James A. Lane Boys & Girls Club, Operation Making a Difference, Inc. (OPMAD), the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Jarrod M. Lockett Foundation, Harvest Youth Club, D'Arís Love Foundation, the Downtown Rescue Mission, Rose of Sharon Soup Kitchen, and Christmas Charities Year Round. The proceeds from this year's event went toward the Catholic Center of Concern which is a non-profit service agency offering emergency financial assistance to individuals or families, regardless of their religious affiliation. They help our community with financial assistance for rent/mortgage and utilities, life-threatening prescribed medication, financial counseling, free diapers, clothing, and newborn blankets. These are just a few of the services they provide for the past 50 years in our community. This is truly Masonic Charity at work.

To close out the quarter, the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 decided to follow up with the Catholic Center of Concern with a clothing drive. Catholic Center of Concern expressed to WM Dawkins that they had a strong need for boys' and men's clothing, especially boys from ages 8-13. Morning Star Lodge No. 50 answered the call by cleaning out their closets and taking them to the stores to purchase clothing items and shoes. On Friday, March 31st, the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 arrived with boxes of shoes and numerous bags filled with men's suits, dress shirts, polos, jeans, shorts, and t-shirts. The lodge was also able to donate clothing for boys from size 7/8 to 16 in assorted jeans, shorts, and athletic gear. In addition, to the male clothing, Morning Star Lodge No. 50 was also able to gather women's jeans, pants, shirts, dresses, and blazers. Catholic Center of Concern was happy to see the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 so soon after their Black & White Charity Ball and thanked them for their continued support.

Contributor – WM Taurean F. Dawkins (No. 50)

Goodway Lodge No. 222

Staying Busy in Its Community

On January 28th, the brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222 partnered with the Huntsville Operation Green Team to support the Adopt-A-Mile Program once a month. Goodway wanted to assist with making sure that the community remains clean and presentable. During this project, Goodway will be cleaning the area of Oakwood Avenue between the stretch of Jordan Lane to Pulaski Pike in the northern part of Huntsville, Alabama. There are a few other lodges in the area that are currently participating in this project and Goodway is excited to be joining them in this effort to keep our communities beautiful.

On March 18th, the brothers of Goodway No. 222 were happy to assist local radio personality Lashay B with her annual Prom Dress Drive. The brothers of Goodway transported over 800 dresses and equipment needed for the event to the Hogan Family YMCA in Madison, Alabama. This is the 11th year that this event has taken place. In addition to the 800 dresses, the organizers also collected donated jewelry, shoes, makeup, and much more. Girls from all over North Alabama had the opportunity to choose from the collection which was all donated by the community and local charities. It was an honor for Goodway to support this great event for the community.

On March 23rd, the brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222, Morning Star Lodge No. 50, and Centennial Lodge No. 19 presented a donation to the McNair Junior High Track Team located in Huntsville, Alabama. This donation will help assist with food, travel, registration, uniforms, and new equipment. This partnership was facilitated by Gary Moore, a member of Goodway, who is currently the Track Coach for McNair Junior High School. The brothers of these three lodges were happy to partner together to provide this donation in hopes that it will help them to have a wonderful track season.

Contributor – WM Brian Johnson (No. 222)



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 or not use the articles and photographs as deemed necessary. **Deadline for submissions for the next issue of *The Cornerstone Message* is 30 June 2023.** These articles should include events from **April 2023 - June 2023**. 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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