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



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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION NUMBER 31

May 16, 2023

TO: Grand Lodge Officers, Grand Trustees, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and Brothers of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, Jurisdiction of Alabama

In accordance with the provisions of our *Constitution and By-laws* and in conformity with the action of our last Grand Lodge, you are hereby officially notified that the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. and A. M. of Alabama, will convene in its 153rd (one-hundred forty-fifth since consolidation) Annual Grand Lodge Communication, on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 8:30 a.m., at The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel and Spa (Battle House Hotel), 26 North Royal Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602-3802.

GRAND LODGE OBLIGATIONS

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

REPRESENTATIVES

Representation in the Grand Lodge will be in accordance with our Masonic laws, traditional Masonic usage, and customs. **MASONIC LAW PROVIDES THAT EVERY LODGE MUST BE REPRESENTED AND MUST DISCHARGE ITS GRAND LODGE DUTIES AT LEAST ONCE IN EVERY TWO-YEAR PERIOD OR IS SUBJECT TO HAVING ITS CHARTER REVOKED.** Lodges will be represented by their Worshipful Masters

and/or Wardens. Be sure to send a representative so that there will be no chance of losing your charter. All Past Masters **MUST** obtain, from their subordinate lodge, a certificate or a statement duly signed by the Master, attested by the Secretary, and sealed with the seal of the lodge, showing that they are in good standing with their subordinate lodges as of June 30, 2023. Reasonable proof may be requested as to Past Master's status. The above-mentioned certificate or statement filed with the Credentials Committee and proof of being current in all departments, including the temple renovation assessment, will entitle Past Masters to seats in the Grand Lodge. The June report of lodges to the Grand Secretary will be sufficient credentials for the representatives of the various subordinate lodges. However, all representatives will register with the Credentials Committee. At registration, representatives will receive an official badge, which will admit them to be seated in the Grand Lodge. The Credentials Committee will be stationed in The Battle House Hotel. **Reminder: Lodges must be current in its tax payments and all Brothers must be current in all payments owed to the Grand Lodge, including the building renovation assessment, in order to be seated in the Grand Lodge Session. This will be strictly enforced.**

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The Welcome and Awards Program will be held on Monday, July 24, 2023, at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel (Riverview Plaza Hotel) in Mobile, Alabama, at 6:00 p.m. We will utilize this time to welcome our guests and to award deserving brothers who have made outstanding contributions to the organization over the past year. The local committee is planning an excellent Welcome and Awards Program, and all Master Masons are requested to be in Mobile in time to attend the program.

The Lodge of Sorrow will be held on Tuesday evening, July 25, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at the Riverview Plaza Hotel, in Mobile, Alabama. Every Master Mason is expected to attend. The Memorial Address will be delivered by Reverend Allen Taylor, Pastor of Delaware Street Missionary Baptist Church in Mobile, Alabama.

MASONIC CLOTHES

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

DAILY DEVOTIONS

No man should ever enter upon any great and important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of Deity. Because our Annual Communication is such a great and important undertaking we will engage in daily devotions at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday

mornings until the sound of the gavel at 8:30 a.m. *O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. Psalm 34:3*

ACCOMMODATIONS

Please be sure to make hotel reservations at The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel and Spa (Battle House Hotel), 26 North Royal Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602-3802. You may make your reservations directly by calling 1-251-338-2000 and asking for the MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE ROOM BLOCK or by clicking on the following link: [Book Your Group/Corporate Rate | Marriott International](#). The rate for the hotel is \$135.00 per night plus applicable taxes. The cutoff date for reservations is June 26, 2023.

COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS

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

- A face mask is suggested to be worn at all times.
- Complete a copy of the COVID-19 Liability Waiver and Statement of Understanding
- A wristband will be issued one time to each member who has successfully passed the temperature check. The wristband that is issued one time is to be worn the entire session. **NO WRISTBAND, NO ENTRY!**

MASONIC WORKSHOPS

Masonic workshops for all Worshipful Masters, Secretaries, Treasurers, Wardens, other lodge officers, and any member who wishes to participate will be conducted on Monday, July 24, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., in The Battle House Hotel, in Mobile, Alabama. These workshops provide valuable information which will be helpful to all members.

FIFTY-YEAR MEMBERSHIP PINS & CERTIFICATES

Over the past number of years, the Grand Lodge has presented those members who have served this organization continuously for 50 years or more with a 50-year lapel pin and certificate. Worshipful Masters please submit to the Grand Lodge or bring with you to our Annual Communication the names of those brothers who are eligible who have not already been given a 50-year pin and certificate. Only one pin and certificate are to be given to each 50-year member.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER'S CERTIFICATION & PAST MASTER'S DEGREE

All newly elected Masters are required and are hereby instructed to be at the Grand Lodge Session, without exception. A mandatory Worshipful Master's Certification Seminar will take place on Monday, July 24, 2023, at 8:00 a.m., in the Moonlight Ballrooms of The Battle House Hotel, in Mobile, Alabama. Sign-in for the seminar will begin promptly at 7:00 a.m. In an effort to expedite the sign-in process a pre-registration form will be sent to all lodges by their Grand District Deputies via email for all newly elected Worshipful Masters and brothers that plan to attend the certification to fill out and submit. For those brothers that are pre-registered you will only need to show your membership card to check-in for the certification. **Again, this certification is mandatory for newly elected Masters. All currently seated Masters are encouraged to attend the Worshipful Master's Certification Seminar, as well. If a newly elected Master does not attend the workshop in full, he will not be admitted into the passing and will not be allowed to serve as Worshipful Master of his lodge. All Grand District Deputies are instructed to hold new elections or place the most recent Past Master back in the seat.** The passing will be conducted on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 5:00 a.m. The Degree of Passing will only take place at the Grand Lodge Session.

The Committee on Passing wishes to remind all newly elected Masters of the \$30.00 fee, payable by CHECK OR MONEY ORDER, that is required for The Degree of Passing, with no exceptions.

MASONIC COLLEGE & TESTING

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama has implemented a Masonic College (Alabama School of Masonry). The college can be accessed via our website at www.mwphglfal.org. To enter the Masonic College, you must type in the password [REDACTED]. Tests for the various modules will only be given at our Annual Grand Lodge Communications. The college consists of the Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum levels. A minimum score of 90 on each exam is required to move to the next level. Those who complete each level will be awarded a certificate and a token of achievement. Testing will take place on Monday, July 24, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. in The Battle House Hotel. Brothers must bring their own laptops, iPads, tablets, etc. to take the tests. The Grand Lodge is not responsible for your electronic devices. The cost to test per level is \$10.00 per brother.

GRAND LODGE OF ALABAMA CHOIR

The Grand Lodge of Alabama Choir has become a staple in our Annual Communications. Dr. Marxlyn David, Grand Musician, has done a magnificent job. In an effort to increase our choir membership we are soliciting the participation of more brothers. For those brothers who are

interested, we ask that you please join our choir. If you intend on participating in the choir, please send your name and email address to marxlyndavid@att.net so that the Grand Musician will be able to send you the links of the songs to learn for the service. Rehearsal will be held on Monday, July 24, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., in Oakleigh Garden of The Battle House Hotel, in Mobile, Alabama.

VETERAN AFFAIRS WORKSHOP

The Alabama Department of Veteran Affairs will have a representative available at our Annual Communication on Monday, July 24, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Jaclyn Campione or a designated representative along with the Committee on Military and Veteran Affairs will conduct a one-hour workshop for Military Veterans of the Grand Lodge. Members are encouraged to attend and ask questions concerning health, education, burial, claim benefits or any questions pertaining to benefits for veterans living in Alabama. Ms. Jaclyn Campione currently serves as the Veteran Service Officer (VSO) for Mobile County, Alabama. We are fortunate to have her come and share valuable information pertaining to military veterans living in Alabama.

PROSPECTS

Everything points to another harmonious and successful Grand Lodge Session. This year's session is projected to be more largely attended than on last year. Every lodge is reminded to do its full Masonic duty by sending its Worshipful Master or its Senior Warden or Junior Warden to represent each lodge at this session. However, the lodge must be current in its taxes and the brother current with all departments. Remember, **MASONIC LAW PROVIDES THAT EVERY LODGE MUST BE REPRESENTED AND MUST DISCHARGE ITS GRAND LODGE DUTIES AT LEAST ONCE IN EVERY TWO-YEAR PERIOD OR IS SUBJECT TO HAVING ITS CHARTER REVOKED.** Be sure to send a representative so that there will be no chance of losing your charter. Every worthy Worshipful Master deserves the honor of an annual trip to the Grand Lodge Session with all expenses paid and a reasonable per diem for his time. Every financial brother has the right to attend and should attend the Annual Grand Lodge Session.

VIRTUAL REGIONAL MEETINGS

Our Virtual Regional Meetings were very successful this year. Attendance was very good. Valuable information was disseminated in each meeting followed by a question-and-answer period. Commendations are extended to all Grand District Deputies and thanks to all the brothers for their virtual participation. Special thanks are extended to the Grand Lodge Officers for all of their assistance and participation.

DOUBLE GOOD POPCORN FUNDRAISER

From June 5 – 9, 2023, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama will be participating in a Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser. Brothers, your participation in this fundraiser is solicited. Fifty percent of the profit will go to the Grand Lodge. Lodges/Brothers who sell the most will be recognized at the Welcome and Awards Program of our Annual Communication. Enclosed is a flyer that explains the steps to take to participate in the Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser.

MEMBERSHIP EMAIL ADDRESSES

In an effort to improve our communication with the membership, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama is requesting the email addresses of all its members. Enclosed is a form for the secretaries of each lodge to submit the email addresses of their members or they can scan the enclosed QR code to provide us with the information.

GRAND LODGE TAX AND ENDOWMENT DUES REPORTS

PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT EACH LODGE SEND ITS GRAND LODGE TAX TO THE GRAND SECRETARY BY DECEMBER 1ST AND BY MAY 30TH. All Worshipful Masters of all lodges are requested to send all Grand Lodge taxes to R.W. Anthony J. Johnson, Grand Secretary, Post Office Box 6468, Huntsville, Alabama 35813-6468, as soon as possible—**BUT NOT LATER THAN JUNE 15th of each year.**

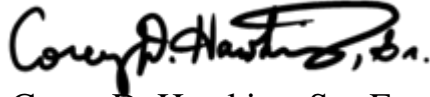
Also, be sure to **send all endowment reports to our Endowment Office Supervisor, Mrs. Kathy Dunnigan-Taylor**, Post Office Box 10504, Birmingham, Alabama 35202-0504, each month—but not later than the 20th of the month. **REMEMBER, NO MEMBER OF A LODGE WILL BE SEATED IN THE GRAND LODGE IF THAT LODGE HAS NOT PAID ITS GRAND LODGE TAXES AND NO MEMBER WILL BE SEATED IN THE GRAND LODGE IF HE IS NOT PAID UP TO CURRENT IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.**

ABSOLUTELY NO REPORTS WILL BE PROCESSED IN ANY WAY AT OUR GRAND LODGE SESSION. This causes delays in our registration process and is not fair to the brothers who are trying to get registered, nor is it fair to our staff. **IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR REPORTS, PLEASE CALL THE GRAND LODGE OFFICE STAFF.** Take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly!

WARNING

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

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Grand Lodge to be affixed and the same to be attested by the Grand Secretary on this 16th day of May 2023, A.L. 6023.



Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.

Most Worshipful Grand Master

of the

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge

Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama



Attested:



Anthony J. Johnson

Right Worshipful Grand Secretary

of the

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge

Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama