



TO BE READ TWICE IN OPEN LODGE



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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION NUMBER 33 February 7, 2024

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

GREETINGS:

*“If you know whence you came, there is really no limit to where you can go.”
James Baldwin*

The above quote by the late writer and civil rights activist, James Baldwin, is a true statement. Our knowing from whence we have come gives us the knowledge and determination to obtain insurmountable achievements. As we are in Black History Month, we must apply a more assertive effort to learn from whence we have come and to enlighten others of the same. We should not only do this in February, but every month of the year. It is our duty, no one else’s, to teach our children and grandchildren about the struggles and the achievements of our ancestors and the present-day struggles and achievements of our people.

SELMA MARCH

For the tenth consecutive year and in an effort to be more involved in our communities, to remember our past, and to look to our future, I am calling on the entire jurisdiction to converge on Selma, Alabama, on Sunday, March 3, 2024, to participate in the 59th anniversary of the historical walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. I am asking all brothers and sisters to meet at 119 Washington Street, Selma, Alabama 36701, diagonally across from Washington Street Marketplace, at 11:00 a.m. The bridge crossing will begin at 2:30 p.m. A large crowd is expected; therefore, I am asking all brothers and sisters to arrive at the designated time. Please bring plenty of water, snacks, and lounging chairs as they will be needed, particularly by our elderly brothers and sisters. All brothers are to participate in the March dressed in proper masonic regalia to include a black suit (including the jacket), white shirt and solid black tie. It is very important that we assemble in Selma, Alabama in mass numbers. Last year we had hundreds of brothers and sisters to attend and participate. We have several bus loads coming from foreign jurisdictions this year. Let us make sure we are present to welcome them. Let us do our best to continue to increase our numbers this year. Consider this March as a time to remember for the seasoned brother and a history lesson for the younger brother. I am counting on you to help make this another great success.

GO REGISTER OTHERS to VOTE (GROV) INITIATIVE

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama is excited to release its new voter registration initiative called Go Register Others to Vote or GROV. This voter registration initiative primarily targets high school seniors who are at least 18 years of age. However, we will also aim to register others to vote as well. We must take it upon ourselves to get more engaged in the voting process by getting others registered to vote.

I encourage each lodge to communicate with the Superintendents, Principals, and Guidance Counselors of the high schools in your communities to establish a day when lodge members may enter the schools and carry voter registration forms for the students to immediately fill out and return to the brothers. The brothers can then return the forms to the proper voter registration authorities within their counties. This may also be done on college campuses.

We must get our young people engaged in the democratic process early. For their voices to be heard, everyone should vote. It is a fundamental right and helps to determine the success of this state and nation.

According to the Alabama Secretary of State website, to register to vote in the State of Alabama, an individual must meet the following qualifications:

- Be a United States Citizen
- Reside in Alabama
- Be at least 18 years old
- Have not been convicted of a disqualifying felony (or have rights restored)
- Have not been legally declared "mentally incompetent" by a court

You may download the State of Alabama Postcard Voter Registration Application from the Secretary of State website. The form can be printed on your printer. You may also request a postcard voter registration from the Secretary of State via email or from your local County Board of Registrars.

You may also obtain voter registration services at the following state and local government offices and agencies:

- Driver's licensing office
- County and select municipal public libraries
- Department of Human Resources
- WIC Program, Department of Public Health
- Medicaid Agency
- Department of Rehabilitation Services

The postcard voter registration form is also available at:

- Public 4-year universities
- Select private 4-year universities
- Driver's licensing office
- County and select municipal public libraries
- Department of Human Resources
- WIC Program, Department of Public Health
- Medicaid Agency
- Department of Rehabilitation Services

For more information you may go to the Alabama Secretary of State website at <https://www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/voter/register-to-vote> or you may contact Voter Registration, State Capitol at 334-242-7210.

I encourage each lodge to establish a GROV Initiative committee. When going to the high schools to register students to vote, one must remember, as with most things, presentation is everything. Slacks and collared shirts are appropriate attire to wear when conducting voter registrations. Shorts, jeans, and t-shirts are not proper for this occasion.

Because we are a tax exempt, nonprofit organization, we must remain nonpartisan. Brothers **CANNOT** wear or carry anything to the voter registrations that could encourage someone or imply that someone should vote a particular way or with a particular party. This is very important. Violation could result in the loss of our tax exempt, nonprofit status.

Remember these steps:

- 1) Communicate with school administration about entering schools to register 18-year-olds to vote.
- 2) Carry voter registration forms to the schools and distribute them to the students.
- 3) Immediately collect the forms
- 4) Submit the forms to the proper voter registration authorities within your county.
- 5) Complete the GROV Initiative Form (enclosed and available on our website) and send it to the Grand Lodge via mail or email (votepha@gmail.com) to inform us of the impact that we are making with this much needed initiative.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

The schedule for 2024 Regional Meetings is as follows:

Saturday, February 17, 2024 – Region #1: District Numbers 1, 3 and 4— Grand District Deputies Llewellyn Spencer (#1), Robert L. Stallworth, Jr. (#3) and Billy J. Stallworth (#4) at 10:00 a.m. at Clarke County High School, 151 South Church Street, Grove Hill, Alabama 36451.

Saturday, March 2, 2024 – Region #4: District Numbers 7, 8 and 10— Grand District Deputies Erwin Chambliss (#7), Donald R. Parks (#8), and Edward Cobb (#10) at 10:00 a.m. at Southlawn Baptist Church, 5340 Mobile Hwy., Montgomery, Alabama 36108.

Saturday, April 27, 2024 – Region #6: District Number 17—Grand District Deputy H. Jerome Glover (#17) at 10:00 a.m. at First Missionary Baptist Church Town Creek, 2057 AL-20, Town Creek, Alabama 35672.

Saturday, May 4, 2024 – Region #5: District Numbers 13, 14 and 15—Grand District Deputies Alvin Crawford (#13), Walter Greene (#14), and Dr. James Gray, II (#15) at 10:00 a.m. at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, 4817 Jefferson Avenue SW, Birmingham, Alabama 35221.

Saturday, May 11, 2024 – Region #3: District Numbers 5 and 6—Grand District Deputies Rev. Robert Worlds (#5) and Rev. Raymond Franklin (#6) at 10:00 a.m. at North Highland Baptist Church, 405 Houston Street, Dothan, Alabama 36303.

Saturday, June 1, 2024 – Region #2: District Numbers 2 and 12—Grand District Deputies Lurie Walton (#2) and Rev. Richard Wilson (#12) at 10:00 a.m. at Eastern Star Baptist Church, 112 Curl Road, York, Alabama 36925.

WORSHIPFUL MASTERS, WARDENS AND BROTHERS ARE TO BE PRESENT AT THEIR REGIONAL MEETINGS. EVERY LODGE IS TO BE REPRESENTED.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- 1.) Please make sure that you mail in your lodge's annual election report.
- 2.) To enter the Alabama School of Masonry (masonic college) on our website, you must enter the password XXXXXXXXXX.
- 3.) The souvenir journal information for 2024 has been disseminated and is also available on the website. Please pay strict attention to the deadline date of May 15th. Please do not wait until the deadline approaches to submit your ads. Begin submitting your ads now. **All subordinate Lodges are REQUIRED to purchase or sell a full-page ad or two half page ads. All Grand Lodge Officers and Grand District Deputies are REQUIRED to purchase a full-page ad.** Let us make this year's souvenir journal the best ever.
- 4.) Addresses and telephone numbers on lodge rolls must be updated at least once a year and as often as needed as members often relocate.
- 5.) The 154th Annual Session is July 22-24, 2024, in Mobile, AL.

6.) Brothers who reinstate and demit must always reinstate to the lodge that they were members of when suspended and then demit to the lodge of their choice. If a Brother's lodge no longer exists, he is to be referred to his Grand District Deputy to help in completing the paperwork to get him on another lodge's roll.

7.) Brothers who reach exemption status are exempt from endowment dues only. To be approved for exemption status, a brother must have been a member of the Endowment Department at least thirty-two (32) years without a break in time (i.e., suspension for non-payment of dues, suspension from the lodge, etc.). When requesting exemption status on a brother, please complete an Endowment Dues Exemption Application and mail it to the office. If the brother qualifies, you will receive a letter stating that he has been approved. If the brother does not qualify, you will receive a letter stating when he is eligible.

8.) When you renew your license plates, please remember to purchase a Prince Hall Grand Lodge license plate. A donation of \$41.25 of the \$50.00 fee will go to the Prince Hall Legacy Foundation for scholarship purposes. We should be proud to show the world that we are Prince Hall Masons.

9.) The current fee structure is as follows:

- a.) Reinstatement - \$25.00
- b.) New Membership (includes membership certificate) - \$30.00
- c.) Membership Certificates - \$5.00
- d.) Taxes - \$25.00
- e.) Registration - \$25.00
- f.) Cornerstone & Burial - \$6.00
- g.) Replacement Membership Card - \$10.00
- h.) Membership Card Sticker - 25¢
- i.) Book of Constitutions - \$20.00
- j.) Alabama Prince Hall Monitor (Supplemental Guide) - \$15.00
- k.) Assessment - New Members and those suspended before June 2002 - \$200.00. Those suspended after June 2002 - \$250.00 (all have two years to pay)

10.) A Request for Dispensation should be made as early as possible and must be made no fewer than fourteen (14) days prior to the event, emergency circumstances excepted. Requests must be made to the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Grand Lodge to be affixed and the same to be attested by the Grand Secretary on this 7th day of February 2024, A. L. 6024

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.

**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

**Anthony J. Johnson
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary
of the**

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