



THE CORNERSTONE

M E S S A G E

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

VOLUME VIII, ISSUE II

APRIL 2025

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60th Anniversary
'Selma to Montgomery
Reenactment March'

Overflow Hotels
Information for
Annual Communication

EVERY ELECTION COUNTS



BE THE CHANGE

AN OFFICIAL
PUBLICATION OF
THE M.W.P.H.G.L.
OF ALABAMA

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THE GRAND MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD



*If at first you don't succeed,
try, try again.*

Thomas H. Palmer

license plate). We have come a long way! We tried again!

Recently, we were fortunate enough to have a very successful Double Good Popcorn fundraiser. With only 122 participants, we raised \$64,424 over a span of four days, of which we will receive \$32,212. We still have donations coming in. The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama had 1,344 supporters, reached across 32 states, and had 436 bags of popcorn donated to educators. I commend you for a successful fundraiser; however, I do make this observation, just think of what we could have raised if many more of our brothers had participated.

Once again, our annual participation in the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge was a huge success. This year marked the 60th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. We had more participants this year than ever. There were over 1,300 brothers who participated and over 550 Eastern Stars who participated as well. Your participation lets the entire world know that Prince Hall Freemasonry in the Jurisdiction of Alabama is alive and well. To have so many men dressed in black and white, donning their lambskins, and so many women adorning their angelic white garments was a sight to behold. My sincere gratitude goes out to you brothers and to Grand Worthy Matron Shirley Pratt and the Mizpah Grand Chapter, OES for your participation.

Brothers, at first, we did not succeed when trying to attain the top distinctive license plate. We tried again and we have accomplished our goal. Let us continue to work together and keep God first to accomplish other goals for our Grand Lodge. May God bless you and may He bless our beloved Grand Lodge!

Fraternally,

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.

Most Worshipful Grand Master

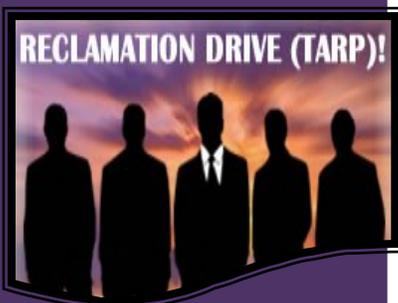
Front Cover: GO REGISTER OTHERS to VOTE (GROV) INITIATIVE at the 60th Anniversary "Selma to Montgomery Reenactment March"

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:

As a fan of Action/Thriller movies like *The Beekeeper*, *Power*, *Gladiator*, and *Den of Thieves* Series, I've been fascinated by how these shows reveal the impact of dishonesty amongst people said to be loyal. It's striking to see how effortlessly some people can lie face-to-face and how exhausting it becomes to maintain those lies. Keeping track of fabricated stories and managing emotions to avoid revealing the truth is undeniably taxing.

My first real exposure to this came when I joined the Army. Being naturally straightforward, I've always shared my thoughts openly. However, I quickly learned that not everyone at work has your best interests at heart, and their motivations can vary greatly. This often makes workdays exhausting, because now, I must stay guarded around those I'm unsure I can trust.

We should also be truthful with ourselves, understanding the extent of our capabilities and responsibilities in life. Honesty with our brothers is essential to fulfilling our Masonic duties and remaining true to our families and commitments. Masonry reminds us that truth is the first lesson

we are taught, serving as the foundation upon which we build every aspect of our lives. It supports all other virtues. We are fortunate to have Masonry in our lives. Embrace truth, let it guide you, and let its peace and harmony calm your soul.

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 2025 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

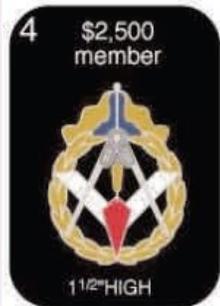
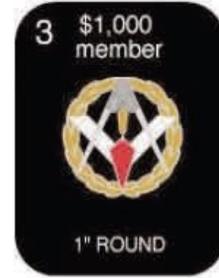
Members suspended after June, 2002, can reinstate by paying the following:

- \$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 MWPGL of AL Tags Anytime, You do not have to wait for your renewal Month!)

60th Anniversary “Selma to Montgomery Reenactment March”



Prince Hall Masons & Order of Eastern Star Sisters, “We Stand United”



Peace, Unity, Justice for All!



The 60th Anniversary In Selma, We Stood Strong Together!



From Whence We've Come...

Burial Sites of Our Past Grand Masters

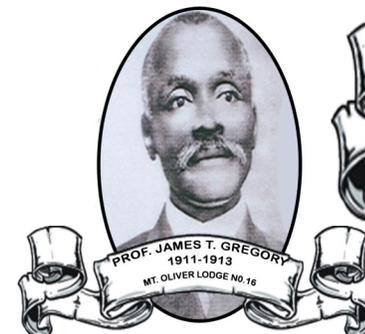
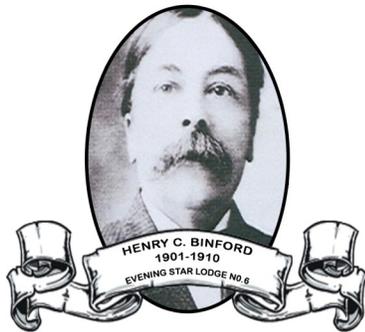
- George W. Braxdall – Oak Hill Cemetery, George Holdridge Lane, Talladega, AL
- Reuben R. Mims – Magnolia Cemetery, 1202 Virginia Street, Mobile, AL
- Dr. S.S.H. Washington – Oakwood Cemetery, 829 Columbus Street, Montgomery, AL
- Henry C. Binford – Glenwood Cemetery, 217-291 Derrick Street NW, Huntsville, AL
- James T. Gregory – Magnolia Cemetery, 900 West Commerce Street, Greenville, AL
- Walter T. Woods – Magnolia Cemetery, 1202 Virginia Street, Mobile, AL
- Charles V. Hendley – Glenwood Cemetery, 217-291 Derrick Street NW, Huntsville, AL
- Malachi Morse – Greenwood Cemetery, 2013-2183 West Montgomery Road, Tuskegee, AL
- S. J. Bennett – Elmwood Cemetery, 600 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Birmingham, AL
- Dr. William O. Jones – Greenwood Cemetery, 2013-2183 West Montgomery Road, Tuskegee, AL



Most Worshipful Prince Hall



Grand Lodge of Alabama



Overflow Hotels

for the

One Hundred Fifty-Fifth Annual Communication

of the

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

which will be held

Monday, July 21, 2025 - Wednesday, July 23, 2025



Holiday Inn

**HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN
301 GOVERNMENT STREET
Mobile, Alabama 36602-2629**



**THE ADMIRAL
HOTEL**

**THE ADMIRAL HOTEL
251 GOVERNMENT STREET
Mobile, Alabama 36602**

The room rate is \$145.00 + applicable taxes per night for the Holiday Inn and
\$169.00 + applicable taxes per night for The Admiral Hotel

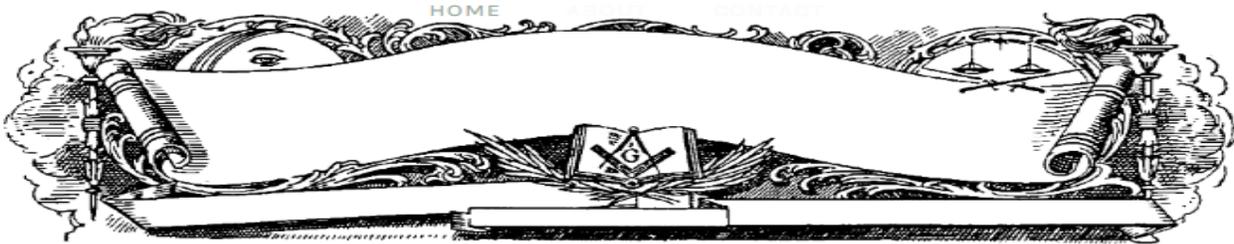
WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS, ASK FOR THE

**MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL FREE & ACCEPTED
MASONS to get our rate. The cutoff date for the room rates is
June 20, 2025.**

For Reservations at the Holiday Inn Call 251-694-0100

For Reservations at The Admiral Hotel Call 251-432-8000

A Blast from the Past



\$ Dollars and Sense \$

Benefits that come from planned giving to a nonprofit organization

Planned giving is a wonderful way to support causes that are close to your heart, and it can have a profound impact both on the organization you are supporting and on your own personal financial planning.

One of the major benefits of planned giving is that it allows you to make a significant contribution to a nonprofit organization without affecting your current financial situation.

By including a gift in your will or estate plan, you can ensure that your legacy will live on and continue to support the work of the organization for years to come. This can be a deeply rewarding way to make a lasting difference.

Another advantage is the potential tax benefits. Many planned giving options, such as charitable remainder trusts or gift annuities, offer tax incentives that can help you reduce your estate taxes and provide you with income during your lifetime.

This means that you can achieve your philanthropic goals while also enjoying financial benefits.

Planned giving can also provide you with a sense of peace and fulfillment. Knowing that you have made arrangements to support a cause that you care about can bring a great deal of satisfaction and assurance. It can be a meaningful way to honor loved ones or to create a legacy that reflects your values and passions.

Nonprofit organizations benefit greatly from planned gifts as well. These contributions provide a stable source of funding that can help the organization plan for the future and sustain their programs and services. Planned gifts can enable nonprofits to take on new projects, expand their reach, and make a greater impact in the community.

In conclusion, planned giving is a powerful tool that can benefit both you and the nonprofit organizations you support. It allows you to make a lasting impact, enjoy potential financial benefits, and experience the joy of giving.

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Convention Coordinator/Corporate Liaison
and Financial Planner*



HEALTH AND WELLNESS



8 CORNERSTONES OF A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

HEALTHY DIET

A balanced nutritional intake means eating according to one's needs. Sources of nutrients are found in various types of food. Healthy eating involves both what you eat and how you eat. Getting your recommended servings of fruits and vegetables daily is important because fruits and veggies are low in calories and fat, high in fiber, and rich sources of vitamins and minerals. Foods that contain fiber keep you feeling full, which helps you lose weight.

PROPER HYDRATION

Hydration is vital for your health. It is necessary for temperature regulation, digestion, nutrient absorption, and body waste removal. Being adequately hydrated can prevent dehydration, which can cause mood and memory problems, constipation, and kidney stones. People who work in high temperatures, exercise at high intensities, or are sick are at a greater risk of dehydration.

QUALITY SLEEP

Good and quality sleep can stimulate the immune system to be in top condition so that it is ready to fight disease-causing pathogens that enter the body. Good quality sleep boosts your immune system and promotes emotional wellness by giving your mind time to rest and recharge. Establishing a relaxing bedtime routine, limiting screen time before bed, and creating a quiet sleep environment can help you get the sleep you need.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Exercising has a myriad of health benefits, such as preventing obesity, protecting against cardiovascular disease, and reducing the risk of osteoporosis. Any amount of physical activity has some health benefits, so if you have a few minutes, you have time to exercise. Finding time for fitness when you are busy is easier than you may think. If you have limited mobility, find out how to exercise in a chair.

DAILY SELF-CARE

We all know how essential self-care is to our mental and physical well-being, but it can often take a backseat to priorities like work, family, and daily responsibilities. Neglecting to take care of yourself can lead to stress, burnout, and mental fatigue.

A basic self-care checklist can help you take better care of yourself by prioritizing your mental, physical, and emotional health without feeling overwhelmed.

MENTAL WELL-BEING

Learning how to manage stress is essential to taking care of yourself and maintaining good overall mental and physical health. If your stress is getting out of control, simple activities like practicing breathing exercises, going for a walk, or listening to music can help restore calm to your life. Chronic stress affects your health and well-being, so explore healthy ways to relieve stress. Meditation has numerous benefits. You can try breathwork, walking meditation, or even movement practices like yoga, breathing exercises, fishing, or listening to music can also help restore calm to your life.

CONNECTION TO NATURE

Research shows that being in nature, living near nature, or viewing nature in images and videos can positively impact our brains, bodies, feelings, and social interactions. Nature can trigger positive emotions, reduce stress, increase openness, creativity, connection, and generosity, and improve physical and mental health.

POSITIVE SOCIAL CIRCLE

Prioritize meaningful connections by scheduling regular quality time with loved ones and friends, fostering stronger bonds. Plan a road trip, a new hobby, or a Do-It-Yourself project together to create lasting memories.

Stay Healthy and Safe!!

Miguel L Ferguson, BSN, MPH, RN

In The Spotlight

Each quarter the MWP HGL of Alabama will place one of our worthy brothers In The Spotlight. The worthy brother placed In The Spotlight this quarter is:

Brother Andrew James Fuller



*Right Worshipful Andrew J. Fuller
Grand Trustee*

Brother Andrew James Fuller is a retired educator, administrator, business owner, civic stalwart, Army veteran, and more. James and Bessie Harris, Fuller's parents welcomed his birth on August 01, 1944. Few people are prouder to be a Thomasville, Alabama, native than Andrew Fuller.

Thomasville, Alabama, is where he received both his elementary and secondary education. However, a tour in the U.S. Army required a break in his studies at Alabama A&M University (AAMU) during the 1960s, Bro. Fuller returned to The Hill. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Trade and Industrial Education. He later earned a Master of Science degree from his beloved AAMU. While he indeed credits AAMU for having prepared him professionally, it is at AAMU where he met and married Dorothy Thompson, a former Miss A&M and his wife of 50+ years.

Bro. Fuller worked in the Huntsville City Schools for more than thirty years. He served over seventy percent (22 years) of that time as the Chief Instructor of Brick Masonry at the Huntsville Center for Technology. His love for young people and teaching resulted in his serving as Assistant Principal and later as

Principal of Lee High School in Huntsville, Alabama.

His civic involvement is widespread and includes serving as a Primary Advisor to the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, chairman of the Membership Committee of the Alabama Vocational Association, and three terms as President of the Brick Masonry Instructors' Association of Alabama. In 2015, he was inducted into the National Brick Masonry Hall of Fame.

His masonic journey began in 1962 in Thomasville, Alabama. Today, Bro. Fuller is among the select group of 33° Masons. In October 1980, in Orlando, Florida, he was elevated to the Honorary Thirty-Third Degree (Grand Inspector General) of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.

His masonic growth alone reads like a Who's Who among the most accomplished individuals nationally, in Huntsville, Bro. Fuller was elected Worshipful Master of Evening Star Lodge Number 6 and appointed Grand District Deputy for District Number 17. He was later elected Grand Trustee of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama.

Other notable masonic achievements include service as Commander-in-Chief of Tennessee Valley Consistory Number 160, the First Illustrious Potentate of Al Azhar Shrine Temple Number 195 and Past Deputy of the Oasis of Huntsville, Desert of Alabama, AEAONMS, Inc.

In October 2018, while in Memphis, Tennessee, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Prince Hall Scottish Rite Freemasonry, Bro. Fuller was coronated a Sovereign Grand Inspector General and designated an Active Emeritus Member of the United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Southern Jurisdiction, United States of America. He has also inspired scholarship donations to AAMU from masonic organizations that, to date, total more than \$100,000.

Brother Fuller is a committed alumnus of AAMU. He served as Chaplain of the Bulldog Pride Committee for ten years. Bro. Fuller's professional and in-kind masonry work can be seen throughout the campus, from the rock walls near Bibb Graves and the Student Center to the football practice area, the baseball dugout, and the Alumni Wall of Giving at the Alumni Center. His in-kind brick masonry projects have amassed an estimated value of over \$85,000 over 40 years. Brother Fuller is a 2020 AAMU Alumni Hall of Fame inductee and a 2023 inductee into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame for his Community Service.



Brother Fuller also played a key role in the AAMU Brick Paver Project and was instrumental in establishing the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony, which now honors Dr. William Hooper Council, founder of AAMU and Past Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge.

Bro. Fuller is a Deacon at Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church of America and a soloist in the Male Chorus.

Bro. Fuller's son Andy, daughter-in-law Cynarra, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren inspire him to continue making a difference in his community, AAMU, and the MWPHGL of Alabama.

As God would have it, Bro. Fuller is a living example to many.

Achievements

Brothers William M. Pompey and Marvin Wiggins Inducted Into the Hall of Fame

On March 6, 2025, the Alabama Lawyers Association held its annual Hall of Fame Awards induction ceremony in Montgomery, Alabama. This year's inductees were honored under the theme "Til' Victory is Won". The Hall of Fame gala honorees were Judge David Hobdy, Judge Troy Massey, and our very own Judge Marvin Wiggins and Attorney William M. Pompey. The history of the Alabama Lawyers Association dates back to 1971, when the organization, formerly known as the Alabama Black Lawyers Association, was formed. The organization's purpose, then and still, holds true today: to encourage the study of law, provide support services and networking opportunities for members to enhance their effectiveness as legal counsel, and protect all citizens' civil and political rights. The organization recognized that specific segments of the population have historically been unrepresented or underrepresented in the legal arena, recognizing that justice is a blind concept, yet sometimes unjustly administered, decided to act and form this prestigious group. Every year, this prestigious organization honors distinguished members of the law community who have been licensed to practice law for twenty-five years or more and have made significant contributions to the cause of justice in protecting the lives of others and the legal profession.



Attorney William Pompey

Attorney William M. Pompey's college and law school education includes Miles College, Class of 1978, B.A., Miles College, Class of 1983, J.D., Curriculum vitae includes 1987, Alabama; U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit; 1987, U.S. District Court, Northern, Middle, and Southern Districts of Alabama. William M. Pompey has practiced law for over 40 years. He practices law at Pompey & Pompey, P.C. in Camden, Alabama. His practice areas include Criminal Defense, General Practice, Criminal Law, Trial Practice, Personal Injury, Automobile Accidents and Injuries, Bankruptcy, Probate, Juvenile Criminal Law, Family Law, Adoption Law, Child Support, and Mediation. With the support of family and friends, Attorney William Pompey received the prestigious honor at the Hall of Fame awards gala held in Montgomery, Alabama.

Judge Marvin Wiggins holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from Emory University, a Juris Doctor from Howard University School of Law, and a Bachelor of Science degree from Alabama State University. His legal experience spans private practice and public service, having worked as an associate at Chestnut, Sanders, Sanders, Pettaway & Campbell, LLC, and the Law Office of Johnnie Hardwick. Judge Wiggins's service and leadership have earned him widespread recognition. He was honored with the William Moses Kunstler Racial Justice Award in 1997 for representing black churches during the 1996-97 church burning crisis. His accolades include the MLK Peacekeeper's Award, the Emancipation Proclamation Humanitarian Award, the Bridge Builders Award, and multiple community service and achievement honors.

Brother William Pompey is a member of Goshen Lodge No. 530, and Brother Marvin Wiggins is a member of Abraham Lodge No. 267. There were several members of the MWPHGLO of Alabama in attendance, including Grandmaster Dr. Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq., Grand Senior Warden R.W. Woodie Pugh, Grand District Deputy District 8, R.W. Loveless Belser, Grand District Deputy District 13, R.W. Alvin Crawford, Attorney Brother Charles James, and Brother William M. Pompey II.



Judge Marvin Wiggins



Attorney Charles James, GM Corey Hawkins, Attorney William Pompey, & Judge Marvin Wiggins

Brother Erick Wade Recognized by Goodway Lodge No. 222

Congratulations, Brother Eric Wade! On February 28, 2025, Goodway Lodge No. 222 in Huntsville, AL, celebrated brotherhood, camaraderie, and community service. They honored Brother Wade by selecting him as one of the award recipients for his outstanding contributions during their 6th Annual All-Black Party. Worshipful Master Brian Johnson emphasized the numerous accolades Wade has received over the years, which have earned him the title of Huntsville Hero.

Congratulations to the “Huntsville Hero!” On January 6, 2025, Governor Kay Ivey of Alabama signed a commendation recognizing Brother Erick Wade of Temple Lodge No. 98 in Huntsville, AL. Brother Wade was praised for his "remarkable innovation and volunteerism throughout Alabama." His initiatives go beyond public service and improving the streets; they represent a movement focused on changing societal attitudes toward public spaces in Alabama.

WM Cooney stated, “As the Master of Temple Lodge No. 98, it has been a remarkable transformation to witness Brother Wade grow the lodge’s Adopt-a-Mile community service program into a recognized city-wide endeavor in Huntsville. This initiative has garnered recognition from the governor and the Oval Office. Temple Lodge No. 98 is honored to have such a distinguished brother among our ranks.”



Brother Brian Smith Hired as 1st Black Mall Manager of Eastdale Mall



Brother Brian Smith is a man on a mission. This Alabama State University College graduate, with a heart rooted in the community, is not just managing Eastdale Mall; he's leading a revitalization far beyond the shopping center's walls. His vision, infused with a deep sense of community and a commitment to progress, is transforming Eastdale into a vibrant hub for shoppers, businesses, and residents alike.

Bro. Smith's story is one of DEDICATION and IMPACT. His journey began with a passion for giving back to the community, evidenced by his timeless work with his nonprofit, The Blueheart Foundation 334, a nonprofit organization that supports underprivileged families and youth. He organized countless events, from

school supply giveaways to festive gatherings, injecting a spirit of generosity and unity into the heart of Eastdale. This commitment to community service caught the eye of Eastdale Mall's leadership, who recognized in him a natural fit for the role of General Manager.

Bro. Smith's arrival ushered in a new era for Eastdale Mall. His leadership is marked by a forward-thinking vision, a collaborative spirit, and a deep understanding of the community's needs. "Make Eastdale Great Again" became a mantra that resonated with shoppers, businesses, and residents alike. The campaign focuses on community needs, safety concerns, and security improvements. Bro. Smith's goal is simple: to create a more welcoming and trustworthy environment for shoppers and businesses.

Bro. Smith has also been recognized as one of the 2025 40 Under 40 Most Influential Leaders in Montgomery. He will graduate on June 14, 2025, with his Honorary Doctorate in Humanitarianism and receive his Doctorate of Business Administration on October 11, 2025, from Columbia Southern University.

Bro. Brian Smith is a member of Hamilton Lodge No. 365 in Montgomery, AL.

Military Affairs

Keeping our MWPHGL of Alabama Veterans Informed

Finding Scholarships for Veterans at Scholarship America

Scholarship America is the nation's leading administrator of private scholarships, awarding \$5.7 billion to more than 3 million students since 1958. The organization administers a wide range of scholarships and emergency grants for students attending vocational school, two-year colleges, and four-year colleges and universities. These funds help close funding gaps and reduce the amount of debt students need to take on to complete their education.

Scholarship America proudly administers several programs specifically for Veterans. These scholarships allow the organization to support those who have volunteered to defend our country as they transition into the civilian workforce. Two are worth noting: The Wells Fargo Veterans Scholarship Program and the DLA Piper BRAVO Scholarship.

The Wells Veterans Scholarships Program awards \$5,000 to honorably discharged Veterans, as well as spouses and widowed spouses of disabled Veterans, pursuing full-time graduate or undergraduate study. Wells Fargo also offers emergency grants to Veteran students facing short-term financial need.

Applicants for the Wells Fargo Veterans Scholarship Program must:

- Have served in the United States military, this includes the Reserves and National Guard.
- Be honorably discharged (no longer drilling or serving) veterans who have received a Certificate of Eligibility from the Department of Veterans Affairs or DD214 or another document of service stating "Honorable Discharged" by the program application deadline date. A spouse or widowed person of disabled veterans meeting the above criteria may also apply.
- Be high school or GED graduates, current undergraduate or graduate level one students enrolled in full-time undergraduate (first Associates or Bachelor's) or graduate (first master's degree) study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school* for the entire upcoming academic year. Doctorate study is not eligible.
*College must not be on warning or probationary status with the federal government or must not be in litigation with the federal government or a state.
- Have completed the FAFSA to ensure full discovery of actual unmet need.
- Use any military education benefits for which they are eligible in the upcoming academic year.
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent.

The DLA Piper BRAVO (Building Relationships to Advance Veterans' Opportunities) Scholarship supports honorably discharged Veterans enrolling in an ABA-accredited law school with \$6,000 in funding. Applications will open in the fall of 2025.

Applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- Be 18 years old or the age of majority in their state of residence (whichever is greater)
- Be enrolled or have graduated from an accredited United States college or university
- Have a minimum of 3.2 GPA
- Plan to enroll in an LSAT prep course or submit applications to ABA-accredited law schools
- Have served in the United States military, this includes the Reserves and National Guard and be honorably discharged (no longer drilling or serving) veterans who have received a Certificate of Eligibility from the Department of Veterans Affairs or DD214 or another document of service stating "Honorable Discharged" by the program application deadline date.

Scholarship America is dedicated to eliminating financial barriers to educational success so that any student can pursue their dream. If you're a Veteran working toward a degree, there are scholarships to be found through Scholarship America.

More information can be found on [https://news.va.gov/Find scholarships for Veterans at Scholarship America](https://news.va.gov/Find%20scholarships%20for%20Veterans%20at%20Scholarship%20America) - VA News

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



MASONIC TERMS

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

Chaplain

Junior Deacon

Senior Deacon

Composite

Junior Warden

Senior Warden

Constitution

Level

Speculative

Corinthian

Lodge

Square

Degrees

Obligations

Treasurer

Doric

Operative

Tuscan

Gavel

Plumb

Tyler

Ionic

Secretary

Worshipful Master

REGION 1

News and Events from Region 1

Mt. Gillead Lodge No. 303 Participates in Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade

The brothers of Mt. Gillead Lodge No. 303 in District No. 4 participated in the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade on January 20, 2025. The brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Rho Xi Sigma Alumni Chapter, and the Concerned Citizens of Atmore hosted the parade. The parade had over eighty individual clubs, organizations, and churches participating. This was the biggest turnout for a community event since before the COVID pandemic in 2019. The parade's rallying point was Atmore's historic Houston Avery Park, located at 200 Park Dr., in the heart of the community. Atmore is a small town with a very rich legacy, but like most small towns, the legacy is lost as time passes. The event culminated with a large celebration in the park with food, music, and several guest speakers tasked with uplifting the community.

Several years ago, three local lodges called Atmore home; now, the city is down to just one. It is very important that the community continues to participate in the small things that bring them together, especially in these times when many people are divided. It was important for Mt. Gillead Lodge No. 303 to be visible and for the community to know the lodge is alive, strong, and loves them. Members of the lodge are men, fathers, uncles, husbands, brothers, and proud masons.

Contributor – Bro. David Quarker Jr. (No. 303)



Pictured below from left to right are members of Mt. Gillead Lodge No. 303: (bottom row) James Harris, Hileary Culliver, Jeramain Riley, Rodney Richardson, Charles C. Abney Jr. (top row): Thaddeus Pace, David Taylor, Tony Williams, David Quarker Jr., Eddie Kyles, and Cedric Leslie.

Pine Grove Lodge No. 639

Hosts PHA Family Day

On Saturday, March 22, 2025, Pine Grove Lodge No. 639 held a PHA Family Day. The Daphne Fire Department and the Daphne Police Department were served lunch courtesy of Pine Grove Lodge No. 639 as they stopped by to fellowship with the lodge's brothers. What began as a family day, plate sale, fundraiser, and community service event turned into a day of fellowship with the entire community and those who protect and serve.

A local nursing home also received lunch and compliments from the lodge. As Pine Grove Lodge No. 639 aligns with the community's needs, the community reciprocates the same love and care back to each other. Love is what love does!

On March 30th, Pine Grove Lodge No. 639 attended their monthly service at Smith Memorial AME Church and actively participated in the "Fill the Pews" campaign. Community engagement transcends more service; it encompasses fellowship with local clergy and congregants who constitute the community's core. This church visitation allowed the lodge brothers to fortify their brotherhood bonds and uphold the esteemed traditions of Prince Hall Masonry.



Members of Pine Grove Lodge No. 639 with members of the Daphne Fire Department during the community fellowship.



Members of Pine Grove Lodge No. 639 attending their monthly service at Smith Memorial AME Church.

Contributor – Bro. Clinton Mosley (No. 639)

REGION 4

News and Events from Region 4

District Eight Participates in MLK Celebration

On January 17, 2025, members from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama's District 8, alongside the dedicated sisters of the Order of the Eastern Star District 20, joined forces to support the 11th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day program hosted by "Friends of the Theatre" held at the historic Davis Theatre in Montgomery, Alabama. This significant event brought together civil rights luminaries and diverse community members to honor the legacy of the iconic Dr. King and recognize local individuals who embody his enduring values. In a tangible display of their dedication to service, these members actively participated by serving as ushers, ensuring the smooth flow of the program and providing a welcoming environment for all attendees. This hands-on contribution exemplifies the principles of rendering aid and support to the community, underscoring the shared commitment of Prince Hall Freemasonry and the Order of the Eastern Star to fostering a respectful and well-organized community.

The Montgomery Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, an initiative spearheaded by creative director Tommie Tonea Stewart, has been a cornerstone of the community since its inception in 2014, paying homage to the civil rights icon and celebrating local champions of his ideals. The participation of MWP HGL District 8 and OES District 20 in this vital event is a powerful reminder of the enduring relevance of Dr. King's message and their continued commitment to his principles. By engaging in community events like this, they honor a pivotal figure in American history and live out their core tenets of service, brotherhood, and the pursuit of a more just and equitable world.



District Eight

Opens New Lodge Building

In February 2025, in coordination with District Deputy Belser, the members of District 8 demonstrated their unity and commitment by lending a helping hand to each other as they tidied up around their new district lodge building. For some time, the dedicated members of various lodges within the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama's District 8 have faced challenges regarding their meeting spaces. In some instances, the lodge buildings available to them were either unsatisfactory for the dignified conduct of Masonic work or had fallen into a state of disrepair, presenting obstacles to the smooth operation and growth of these vital lodges within the district.

In a demonstration of its unwavering commitment to the well-being and progress of its membership, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama has proudly provided a permanent lodge building to serve as a central meeting and event space for the lodges of District 8. This decisive action marks a new chapter for the district, providing a solid foundation upon which its lodges can continue their essential work of fellowship, ritual, charity, and community engagement. This permanent home promises well-maintained facilities, fostering an environment conducive to meaningful Masonic gatherings, degree work, educational programs, and social events. This investment by the Grand Lodge underscores its dedication to strengthening the bonds of brotherhood within District 8 and ensuring a vibrant future for Prince Hall Freemasonry in this region of Alabama.



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

Abraham Lodge No. 267

Partners with Alabama State University

Continuing the Abraham Lodge No. 267's mission of service and community uplift, on February 20, the brothers of Abraham Lodge No. 267 proudly partnered with the Alabama State University Resource Office in a meaningful initiative to support student success. The lodge donated a collection of professional clothing—including suits, dress shirts, ties, and dress shoes—to the university's resource closet, providing students with essential attire for internships, job interviews, and career opportunities.

This act of service exemplifies the lodge's Masonic commitment to relief and brotherly love. It also reflects its awareness of the fundamental challenges many college students face beyond the classroom, including food insecurity, lack of hygiene supplies, and limited access to professional wear.

The ASU Resource Room exists to address these barriers, offering physical and psychosocial support to promote academic achievement and personal growth. Abraham Lodge No. 267 reaffirms its dedication to building better men and stronger communities by contributing to this effort.

The lodge remains steadfast in supporting the next generation of leaders, empowering students to step into their future with confidence and dignity. "Building Better Men, Who Serve the Community"



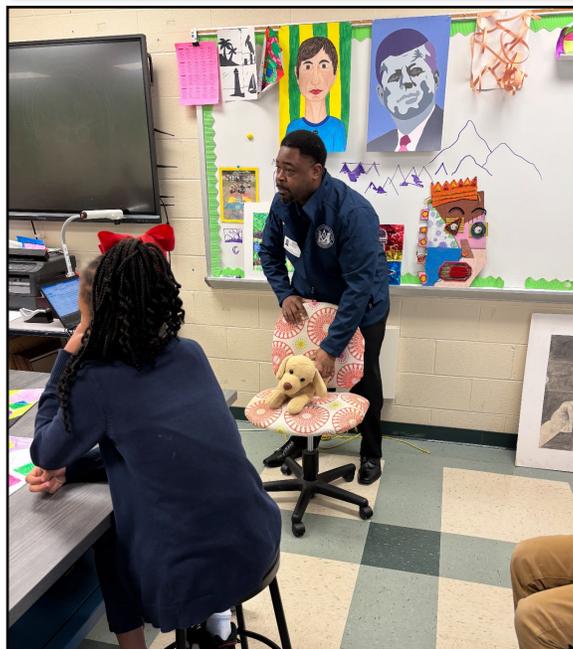
Abraham Lodge No. 267

Empowering Through Education

On March 6, 2025, the brothers of Abraham Lodge No. 267 answered the call to uplift and educate by participating in Fathers & Fraternities for Literacy Day at Blount Elementary School. Representing the lodge with pride, Bro. D. Daniels and Bro. L. McCord joined other fathers and fraternity members in reading to classrooms filled with eager young minds. The brothers brought the story of Officer Buckle and Gloria to life, combining heartfelt narration with animated storytelling, with even a stuffed puppy to capture the students' imagination. Their visit wasn't just about reading a book; it was a visible act of mentorship, community support, and the values many lodge brothers hold dear as masons: wisdom, leadership, and service.

Studies show that children perform better academically when fathers and male figures are engaged in their education. Events like this reinforce why the lodge brothers continue to show up, not just in lodge halls but in the lives of those they're called to serve. As the lodge builds better men who serve the community, Abraham Lodge No. 267 remains committed to shaping a brighter future, one story, one classroom, and one child at a time.

Contributor – WM Ferry Nye, Jr. (No. 267)



Hamilton Lodge No. 365

Continues Its Community Service



*Members of Hamilton Lodge No. 365
at anniversary of Bloody Sunday*



*Members of Hamilton Lodge No. 365
serving at MLK Day Program as Ushers.*

In solemn observance of the anniversary of Bloody Sunday, dedicated brothers of Hamilton Lodge No. 365, answered the call of Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq., KYGCH, 33°, to journey to Selma and participate in the symbolic crossing of the Edmund Pettus Bridge. This annual pilgrimage is a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made in the fight for civil rights and equality in the United States. Representing Hamilton Lodge, these dedicated brethren joined many Prince Hall Masons from across the state and nation, locking arms in a powerful display of unity and unwavering commitment to the ongoing pursuit of justice for all. This collective action underscored the fraternity's enduring dedication to the principles of equality and its solidarity with the historic struggle for civil rights.

In January 2025, proving their unwavering commitment to the principles of brotherhood, equality, and service, dedicated brothers from Hamilton Lodge No. 365, participated with the sisters of the Order of the Eastern Star District 20 in supporting the 11th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day program hosted by "Friends of the Theatre." Held on Tuesday, January 17th, 2025, at the historic Davis Theatre in Montgomery, Alabama. This significant event honored the legacy of Dr. King. In a tangible display of their dedication to service, the members of Hamilton Lodge served as ushers, contributing to the smooth flow of the program and ensuring a welcoming environment for all attendees. This hands-on contribution exemplifies the Masonic principle of rendering aid and support to the community, highlighting Hamilton Lodge's commitment to the shared values of Prince Hall Freemasonry and their active role in assisting District 8 and the OES in their community engagement.

In January 2025, embodying their commitment to community engagement and the importance of literacy, the brothers of Hamilton Lodge No. 365 partnered with the dedicated faculty and staff of Davis Elementary School in Montgomery, Alabama, for a heartwarming outreach initiative. Several lodge members visited the school and spent quality time reading engaging stories to the students. This valuable interaction fostered the young scholars' love of reading and learning, provided positive role models, and strengthened the bonds between Hamilton Lodge No. 365 and the local community. By sharing the joy of books, the brothers of Hamilton Lodge demonstrated their dedication to nurturing the minds of future generations and making a tangible difference in the lives of the students at Davis Elementary.



Members of Hamilton Lodge No. 365 at Davis Elementary School for student outreach initiative.

In February 2025, continuing their tradition of fostering fellowship and engaging with the broader community, the brothers of Hamilton Lodge hosted their Annual Adult Prom at Alcazar Shrine Temple in Montgomery, Alabama. This popular event, which enjoys increasing yearly attendance, provided a delightful and elegant night out for adults to socialize and connect with lodge members in a relaxed and celebratory atmosphere. Beyond enjoying the evening, the Adult Prom serves as an opportunity to cultivate fellowship and build positive relationships within the community, reflecting the Masonic value of fraternity and the importance of social connection. By creating such engaging and well-received events, Hamilton Lodge demonstrates its commitment to being an active and contributing member of the Montgomery community, extending the principles of brotherhood beyond the lodge doors.



Members of Hamilton Lodge No. 365 at their Annual Adult Prom.

Demonstrating their ongoing commitment to benevolence and service to the community, the brothers of Hamilton Lodge recently made a significant donation of food to the Montgomery Area Food Bank. This act of generosity reflects the core Masonic tenet of charity and the responsibility to care for those in need within their society. By providing essential resources to the food bank, Hamilton Lodge actively alleviated hunger and supported individuals and families facing food insecurity in the Montgomery area. This contribution underscores the lodge's dedication to making a tangible positive impact on the lives of its fellow citizens and upholding the fundamental principles of brotherly love and relief central to freemasonry.



Members of Hamilton Lodge No. 365 making donation to the Montgomery Area Food Bank.

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

REGION 5

News and Events from Region 5

New Beginning Lodge No. 970 Supports Community Seniors

New Beginning Lodge No. 970 continued its commitment to the community seniors by partnering with the City of Center Point to sponsor the Center Point Senior Center's 3rd Annual Chili Cook Off. The day was filled with fun, games, line dancing, and giveaways. This event ensured that the community seniors connect with healthcare vendors and are introduced to some program options they may not be aware of. It made for a delightful atmosphere with hot dogs and burgers from the grill, cool refreshment from "205 Shaved Ice," and the aroma of over sixteen entries of homemade chili. Center Point Mayor Bobby Scott thanked New Beginning Lodge No. 970 for their continued support and looks forward to continuing a great relationship.

Contributor – WM Gerald L. Beal (No. 970)



Above: Members of New Beginning Lodge No. 970 with community seniors at the Annual Chili Cook Off.

Bottom Left: Community members getting cool refreshment from "205 Shaved Ice".

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

On January 4, 2025, the Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 brothers gathered in great joy to host their Third Annual Table Lodge. The evening was filled with fellowship, tradition, and the unwavering spirit of brotherhood. The event was a resounding success, strengthening the bonds that unite them as brothers.

This annual tradition continues to serve as a gathering and a powerful reminder of the values of unity, support, and growth within the Craft.

Worshipful Master Gerren K. Whitlock Sr., 33°, delivered an excellent lecture titled "Unity Within Our Ranks," offering deep insight and encouragement for all brothers present. His words resonated as a call to strengthen fraternal ties and continue building a legacy of harmony and service.



Members of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 at their Annual Table Lodge.

The lodge was also honored to welcome several distinguished guests, including Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins Sr., 33°, KYGCH; District Deputy Walter Greene; and a host of brothers from across the Jurisdiction whose presence added significant value to the occasion.

The brothers of Lodge No. 319 extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended. Your support and presence made the evening truly memorable.

On January 18th, the brothers of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 and the Sisters of Lillie Bell Chapter No. 687, OES, came together for a pancake fundraiser at Magic City Grille in Bessemer, Alabama. From start to finish, the event was full of love, laughter, and community spirit.

Participants from across the city came to enjoy a hot breakfast, good conversation, and to support a cause bigger than ourselves. The lodge raised funds to support their ongoing community efforts and made it a point to feed members of the surrounding community, especially those in need. To those involved, it was more than just pancakes; it was fellowship with purpose.

The Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 brothers were incredibly grateful to everyone who showed up, donated, or helped spread the word. Events like this remind the brothers what's possible when brothers and sisters work together, side by side, to serve others.

The lodge is looking forward to building on this momentum with more events that uplift their neighborhoods and strengthen the bonds between the lodge and the OES Chapter.



Members of Lillie Bell Chapter No. 687, OES assisting at the pancake fundraiser

Over the past year, Worshipful Master Gerren K. Whitlock Sr. has intentionally fostered an environment of unity and education within the lodge. As part of that vision, he launched a three-part lecture series and welcomed brothers from various lodges to share insights on meaningful Masonic topics. The first lecture was on March 1, 2025, by Brother Jahmaal Floyd, Sr. of Tuxedo Lodge No. 431. He delivered a much-needed and eye-opening lecture titled "Guarding the West Gate: Recognizing Clandestine Masonry." The message struck a chord with many brothers in attendance, sparking thoughtful conversation and a renewed sense of responsibility for protecting the integrity of the Craft.

Brother Floyd explained what it truly means to “guard the West Gate”—a symbolic reminder that every Mason must ensure that only worthy and properly initiated men enter our fraternity. He emphasized that this responsibility doesn’t just fall on leadership; it belongs to everyone.

The heart of his message focused on clandestine Masonry. What it is, how to recognize it, and why it poses a real threat to regular, recognized Masonic bodies, especially within the Prince Hall Affiliation. He made it clear that not every group calling itself Masonic is legitimate. Some operate outside the authority of a recognized Grand Lodge and use the image of Masonry to mislead and take advantage of others.

Brother Floyd walked the brothers through the red flags, things like groups with no charter, questionable lineage, or unusual degree structures. He stressed the importance of asking questions, researching, and educating those seeking Light so they don’t fall into the wrong hands. He also shared how these organizations can damage the public’s perception of the Craft, primarily when they act in ways that don’t align with Prince Hall Affiliation values or traditions.

He reminded the brothers of Prince Hall Freemasonry's long and proud history and how important it is to protect that legacy. Too many well-meaning men have been misled by false claims or impressive-sounding titles, only to discover later that they were never truly made Masons.

One of the biggest takeaways was that education is the best defense. When Prince Hall Affiliation brothers know the signs and share that knowledge, they strengthen the West Gate. When brothers stay vigilant, they help preserve the Light for future generations.

Brother Floyd closed with a simple but powerful challenge to all of the brothers: stay informed, speak up, and stand firm in protecting the integrity of the Brotherhood. His words were a potent reminder that guarding the West Gate isn’t just about who comes in—it’s about who the brothers are when they stand there.

Contributor – Bro. Mandrell McCray (No. 319)



REGION 6

News and Events from Region 6

Northwest Worshipful Master's Council Supports Alabama HBCU Day



Masters and Past Masters Northwest Worshipful Master's Council set up at the Annual Alabama HBCU Day.



Brothers of Unity Lodge No. 46 and Hopewell Lodge No. 198 with attendees at the Annual Alabama HBCU Day.

On March 29, 2025, brothers of Unity Lodge No. 46 and Hopewell Lodge No. 198 came together on behalf of the Northwest Worshipful Master's Council in District 17. They participated in the 2nd Annual Alabama HBCU Day presented by the North AL Youth/Family Ministry, at Mt. New MB Church in Leighton, AL. Different Sororities and Fraternities from various colleges attended to give this event exposure, highlight social and civic organizational awareness, and present opportunities to the high school students, post-secondary students, and the entire community. This event was marked with free food, door prizes, and music. This was a great day to learn about HBCUs in Alabama by providing parents with information for applying for college and receiving funding for tuition grants. It was great to be able to encourage the youth to attend HBCUs and give visibility to the fraternal order. The Council also successfully got someone registered to vote through its GROV Initiative and had membership petitions completed. A special thanks to all in attendance, and a huge thank you to AGDD Robert Johnson, WM Steven Ingram of Unity Lodge No.46, and WM Craig Hawkins of Hopewell Lodge No.198 for organizing the event and making it a success!

Contributor – WM Rev. Craig Hawkins (No. 198)

Northwest Worshipful Master's Council Honors Pioneer Lodge Members

On February 9, 2025, the Northwest Worshipful Master's Council of District No.17 held its first meeting of the year at Nash Bar and Grill in Decatur, AL. During this time, the Council discussed old and new business and upcoming events for the next few months. In addition to the council meeting, Ascension Lodge No. 72 recognized and honored PM Rev. Leo Owens, who served ten years as Worshipful Master of Ascension Lodge No. 72, PM Nathaniel Torain, who also served as Worshipful Master of Ascension Lodge No. 72 for 47 years, Bro. Carl Scruggs and Bro. Berkely Brooks, all who have dedicated many years of service to their lodge, community, and Prince Hall Masonry. Their wisdom, commitment, and contributions have helped shape Ascension Lodge No. 72 into what it is today, and WM Rudy Trammell expressed his gratitude for their service.

During this meeting, everyone enjoyed the delicious food provided by Nash Bar and Grill. The Northwest Worshipful Master's Council concluded the evening with fellowship and watching the Super Bowl Football Game. There was significant participation from the brethren in District No. 17, and their presence made this a meaningful celebration.

Contributor – WM Rudy Trammell (No. 72)



Red Cross Lodge No. 35 Supporting Read Across America Week

On March 2-6, 2025, the Red Cross Lodge No. 35 F&AM PHA brothers volunteered at Rolling Hills Elementary School during Read Across America Week. Read Across America Week begins March 2, 2025! This nationwide initiative promotes literacy and encourages students to become lifelong readers—schools, libraries, and communities nationwide host special reading events and activities to commemorate the day. Throughout the week, the brothers of Red Cross Lodge No. 35 shared stories, sparked imagination, and inspired a love for reading among the students at the school. Brother Christopher Garner stated, "At Red Cross Lodge No. 35, we believe that building stronger communities begins with investing in our youth, and we're proud to do our part."

Read Across America Day, also recognized as Dr. Seuss Day, is an annual event that promotes the joy of reading, especially among children. Celebrated in honor of the birthday of Theodor Seuss Geisel, famously known as Dr. Seuss, the day is filled with reading events, character dress-ups, and a shared appreciation for the iconic stories that have charmed generations.

Contributor – Bro. Christopher Garner (No. 35)



WM Dayrl Lockhart reading to the children at Rolling Hills Elementary School.



Bro. Christopher Garner reading to the children at Rolling Hills Elementary School.

Unity Lodge No. 46 Hosts Annual Black History Program



Brothers of Unity Lodge No. 46 at their Annual Black History Program.



WM Steven Ingram (left) and Past Master Robert Goodloe (right) presenting AGDD Robert Johnson (middle) with award at their Annual Black History Program.

On February 16, 2025, the brothers of Unity Lodge No. 46 hosted their Second Annual Black History Program. The lodge was grateful to Pastor Ricky Bonner and the Mt. Hope M.B. Church in Sheffield, Alabama, for their gracious hospitality. Unity Lodge No. 46 and guests enjoyed wonderful songs rendered by Bethel P.B. Church in Hillsboro, Alabama. Hearing a strong word from Unity Lodge No. 46's very own Junior Warden, Rev. Lathan B. Strong, Pastor of First Baptist Church in Town Creek, Alabama. Rev. Strong's powerful and inspiring words have all played a crucial role in making the event memorable.

The lodge also honored AGDD R.L. Johnson, President of the Northwest Worshipful Master's Council, with an award for his untiring leadership and dedication to the community and organization. AGDD Johnson shows unmerited love to brothers and lodges within the region. He acknowledges brothers and lodges for their hard work, letting nothing go uncounted; most importantly, he gives flowers to seasoned members for years and tenures in masonry. AGDD Johnson has been a pillar, mentor, and trusted guide for the brothers in the Shoals area. Unity Lodge No. 46's brothers felt it fitting to honor and give him flowers for a job well done.

On March 9, 2025, brothers of Unity Lodge traveled to Selma to participate in the 60th commemoration of the Bloody Sunday March. Despite the weather, brothers were still able to come together as one. The lodge had brothers who were able to attend for the first time. It was a thrilling moment watching everyone in unison.

Contributor – WM Steven Ingram (No. 46)

Morning Star Lodge No. 50 Continues Service and Community Empowerment

The early months of 2025 have been marked by a series of impactful initiatives that demonstrate the unwavering commitment of the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 to community service and charitable outreach. Through nourishing meals, elegant fundraising events, and heartfelt clothing drives, the lodge has again proven that the Masonic values of brotherly love, relief, and truth are alive and well.

On January 23, 2025, the lodge joined forces with the Downtown Rescue Mission to serve a nourishing dinner to needy community members. The dedicated brothers prepared and served a hearty meal to provide comfort and sustenance for those facing hardship. The Downtown Rescue Mission, a non-profit organization that supports men, women, and children across North Alabama and South Tennessee, depends on partnerships like these to offer lodging and meals. This nourishing dinner warmed hearts and bellies and reaffirmed the lodge's steadfast commitment to providing aid during challenging times.

Continuing its tradition of philanthropic excellence, Morning Star Lodge No. 50 hosted its 15th Annual Black & White Charity Ball on March 7, 2025, at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Initially established in 2008 under Past Master Darrell Brown's leadership, the Charity Ball has become a vital fundraiser to assist numerous local organizations. Over the years, this prestigious event has supported many community services, including those offered by the National Association for the Prevention of Starvation (NAPS), Triana Public Library, James A. Lane Boys & Girls Club, and many more. This year, the evening's proceeds directly benefited the Huntsville Community Drumline, a nonprofit that fosters music education and youth development through percussion. The Charity Ball was a night of elegant celebration, where unity, music, and charitable giving combined to create a lasting positive impact on the Huntsville community.



Brothers Calvin Walls, Brian Smith, Greg White, Nick Benjamin, and Greg Walcott participating in community service at the Downtown Rescue Mission.



The brother of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 at their 15th Annual Black & White Charity Ball Harlem Nights Edition.



*WM Taurean F. Dawkins & Angela Walker
Founder of Huntsville Community Drumline.*



WM Taurean F. Dawkins, PM Larry D. Tisdale, Beth Haynes (Executive Director at Christmas Charities Year Round), and Brother Thomas Flowers.



Brother Thomas Flowers unloading clothing donations for Christmas Charities Year Round.

On March 31, 2025, the brothers extended their service by supporting Christmas Charities Year Round (CCYR) through their new men’s program. CCYR, a long-standing nonprofit serving Madison County, AL since 1949, provides emergency resources—including free clothing, shoes, and limited medical assistance—at no cost to those in need. Embracing its motto, “Working together to make a difference in the life of our community – 365 days a year,” CCYR recently launched a “clothing for the homeless” initiative, focusing on supplying essential apparel to homeless men. Under the leadership of Worshipful Master Taurean F. Dawkins, the lodge organized a month-long clothing drive that culminated on March 31. Donations included slacks, jeans, short- and long-sleeved shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, t-shirts, and socks, along with contributions in sizes for young male teens and even some women. This comprehensive drive provided practical support to men residing in local shelters and offered a boost of dignity and hope to those facing homelessness.

Through these diverse community service projects—a nourishing dinner, a glamorous Charity Ball, and a generous clothing drive—the Morning Star Lodge No. 50 brothers have again proven their dedication to making a tangible difference. Their actions embody the spirit of compassion and service, ensuring that those in need receive warmth, dignity, and a reminder that they are not forgotten. As they continue to serve Huntsville and the greater community, the Lodge’s efforts stand as a testament to the enduring power of unity, charity, and brotherhood.

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



Brothers Nick Benjamin and Brian Smith serving beverages at the Downtown Rescue Mission.

Ascension Lodge No. 72

Supporting the Community Schools

On January 30, 2025, Ascension Lodge No. 72 had the privilege of supporting East Lawrence High School's soccer teams by donating cleats to both the boys' and girls' teams. This opportunity arose when Bro. Jhosue Mendoza noticed the coach's post on social media. Taking initiative, Bro. Mendoza reached out, coordinated with the coach to assess their needs, and brought the matter before the lodge.

With the information, Ascension Lodge No. 72 would convene at the trestle board, carefully plan, and take swift action. WM Rudy Trammell stated, "It was an honor to serve and demonstrate that we stand as steadfast pillars within our community—symbols of strength and stability—always ready to rise to the occasion when called upon."

On March 17, 2025, Ascension Lodge No.72 partnered with West Decatur Elementary School to help carry out Principal Jennifer Edwards's vision for her students by donating a girl and boy bicycle as an incentive for ACAP Testing. Students who score high in Reading or Math, at school every day on time, and do their absolute best will be placed in a drawing to win a bicycle per grade level. They choose one boy and one girl from each testing grade, 2nd – 5th grade. On behalf of Ascension Lodge No. 72, it was an absolute pleasure to participate in such an event that will put a smile on the students' faces.

Thank you, brethren, for making this a success for West Decatur Elementary!

Contributor – WM Rudy Trammell (No. 72)



Members of Ascension Lodge No. 72 making a donation to the East Lawrence High School's Soccer Team.



Members of Ascension Lodge No. 72 making their bicycle donations to West Decatur Elementary School.

Temple Lodge No. 98

Continues Its Community Service Efforts

After a busy holiday season, the Clearview Cancer Institute food pantry needed a boost to kick off the new year. Temple Lodge No. 98 stepped in to help. On January 20, 2025, the lodge purchased \$300 worth of frozen, ready-to-eat meals and delivered them to the CCI facility. The social workers at CCI will distribute the meals as needed.

Cancer treatments are not only costly but also drain a patient's energy and reduce their motivation to prepare meals afterward. Patients need to maintain the correct dietary intake to ensure their bodies have everything they need to combat the disease. Temple Lodge No. 98 is always eager to assist CCI's patients in their battle against cancer.

On February 25, 2025, Temple Lodge No. 98 proudly upheld its enduring commitment to Huntsville, Alabama, by organizing its monthly cleanup at Jim Marek Park. This spirited endeavor was carried out by dedicated new members of Temple Lodge No. 98, who not only fulfilled their community service requirement but also embraced the values of Temple Lodge No. 98, emphasizing being instrumental and impactful within the community.

Under the insightful guidance of the lodge's Adopt-A-Mile guru, the Class of Carl J. Cooney Jr. diligently worked to restore the park to its pristine condition. Their efforts extended beyond the park, as they ventured onto Clopton Street, where they continued to enhance the local environment. The day was filled with camaraderie and a shared sense of purpose, embodying the spirit of service that defines the lodge's mission and its relationship with the Huntsville community.

On March 30, 2025, Temple Lodge No. 98, Brother Erick Wade, continued his noteworthy support of the city's Operation Green Team's Adopt-a-Spot Program, which allows the community to contribute to a beautiful, healthier, cleaner environment by adopting a mile, spot, or stream. The members worked diligently along a mile in the area affectionately labeled "For Those Who Can't." This nickname has been dedicated to a section of the city where many elderly residents often express gratitude to the cleanup crew, saying things like, "I wish I could help, but I can't, due to various ailments." The cleanup removed several pounds of debris from the busy roadway, supporting the lodge and Huntsville's beautification mission.

Contributor – WM Carl Cooney. (No. 98)



Brothers of Temple Lodge No. 98 donating and delivering frozen, ready-to-eat meals to Clearview Cancer Institute.



New members of Temple Lodge No. 98 participating in their Adopt-A-Mile clean up.



Members of Temple Lodge No. 98 participating in their Adopt-A-Mile clean up.

Hopewell Lodge No. 198

Supporting Its Community

On January 26, 2025, WM Rev. Craig Hawkins presented Lexi Johnson, a sophomore and Colbert County High Softball team member, with a sponsorship check on behalf of Hopewell Lodge No. 198. The proceeds will go to the softball team and help with miscellaneous fees, typically from taxpayers and/or parents. Once the season starts, an 18x18 sign with the lodge information will be placed at the field. Lexi is the daughter of District 17's AGDD Robert Johnson. It was Hopewell Lodge No. 198's pleasure to sponsor the softball team.

On February 7th, Hopewell Lodge No. 198 members were honored to participate in the City of Leighton's Black History Program. The program was held at the Leighton Public Library. The lodge presented the library with multiple books written by African Americans and/or about African Americans. In this current climate, African American history must remain a part of American history. The lodge brothers were also joined by OES Chapter No. 85. Charlotte Goodman, Special Events Coordinator, and Miranda Ball, Leighton Library Director, were thrilled with the donation. The lodge looks forward to continuing to build this relationship!

Contributor – WM Rev. Craig Hawkins (No. 198)



Above: Hopewell Lodge No. 198 making book donations at City of Leighton Black History Program.

Left: WM Rev. Craig Hawkins presenting Lexi Johnson with donation to softball team.

Pride of Lincoln Lodge No. 817 Supports Annual Women's Expo

On March 29, 2025, the brothers from Pride of Lincoln Lodge No. 817 took part in the 5th Annual Women's Expo Event at the Von Braun Civic Center South Hall in Huntsville, Al. The Expo offered women of Greater Huntsville and surrounding areas an opportunity to invest in themselves and connect with a like-minded collective of peers consisting of entrepreneurs, creatives, and motivators. Pride of Lincoln Lodge No. 817 gladly stepped up to take on the task of organizing the South Hall and assisting a multitude of vendors with finding assigned spaces to setup, transporting support equipment and merchandise to ensure the event seamlessly transitioned from the opening and introduction of staff to the closing, breakdown, and departure of the vendors.

The four-day-long Expo, filled with workshops, panels, and other interactions, was hosted by a staff of multifaceted, enterprising women from the Huntsville area, with CEO and Founder Tiffany Draper leading the charge. Many brothers of Pride of Lincoln No. 817 have known Tiffany since high school and count it a joy and a privilege to support her in her magnificent work with the Expo. The Expo was a success, as in years prior. The Expo boasts, "Ultimately, this is a chance to feel inspired, empowered, and ready to take on new challenges in every area of your life.", Tiffany Draper. She continues to be a beacon of inspiration, bringing together diverse voices and fostering meaningful connectivity throughout the city of Huntsville. Pride of Lincoln No. 817 looks forward to playing an even larger supporting cast role in the 6th Annual Women's Expo in 2026.

Contributor – Bro. Jeremy Schumake (No.817)



Brothers of Pride of Lincoln Lodge No. 817 with Founder, Tiffany Draper at the 5th Annual Women's Expo.



Brothers of Pride of Lincoln Lodge No. 817 at the 5th Annual Women's Expo.

Goodway Lodge No. 222 Continues Its Efforts

On January 28th, the brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222 demonstrated their unwavering commitment to community service by donating to the Jemison High School 'Students-in-Need' Pantry in Huntsville, AL. This initiative was created to assist students facing financial hardships by providing them with essential items needed for their daily lives.

Jemison High School serves a diverse student population, including over 100 students who are either homeless or living below the poverty line. These students often struggle to access necessities that many take for granted. To help alleviate some of these challenges, the school established the 'Students-in-Need' Pantry, ensuring students have reliable access to personal care items, hygiene products, and other essentials.

Recognizing the importance of this initiative, the brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222 stepped up to offer support. Their donation included sanitary napkins, lotion, cleaning wipes, tights, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. These supplies play a crucial role in maintaining the health, hygiene, and confidence of students who may otherwise not have regular access to them.

The brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222 remain dedicated to community service through their ongoing participation in the Adopt-A-Mile Program. Once a month, lodge members come together to ensure the North Huntsville community remains clean, safe, and presentable for all residents.

As part of this initiative, Goodway Lodge is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of Oakwood Avenue, specifically the stretch between Jordan Lane and Pulaski Pike. The brothers of Goodway take pride in enhancing the area's appearance and environmental health by regularly removing litter and debris.



Members of Goodway Lodge No. 222 with their donations for the Jemison High School 'Students-in-Need' Pantry.



Members of Goodway Lodge No. 222 at their Adopt-A-Mile community service program.

On March 8th, the brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222 proudly supported local radio personality Lashay B in her annual Prom Dress Drive, an initiative dedicated to ensuring that young women in North Alabama have the opportunity to attend their high school prom with confidence and style—regardless of financial circumstances.

This year's event, held at the Hogan Family YMCA in Madison, Alabama, was a tremendous success, offering an unforgettable experience for high school girls across North Alabama. The event aimed to provide free prom dresses and accessories to those in need, allowing students to choose the perfect dress and complete their look with donated jewelry, shoes, makeup, and more. For many of these young women, attending prom is a cherished milestone, but the costs associated with dresses, accessories, and other expenses can be overwhelming.

The brothers of Goodway No. 222 played a crucial role in making this event possible by transporting over 1,000 prom dresses and essential equipment needed for the event setup. This effort ensured that the dresses were delivered safely and efficiently, allowing for a smooth and organized shopping experience for the young ladies in attendance.

On February 28th, the 6th Annual All Black Party was more than just an event—it celebrated leadership, resilience, and service. The brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222 take immense pride in hosting this gathering each year, ensuring that exceptional community leaders receive the recognition they deserve.

This year's event honored three distinguished community leaders for their outstanding contributions.

Mr. Erick Wade is a Logistics Coordinator at Adept Technologies LLC and an active civic leader dedicated to community development, environmental initiatives, and historic preservation. His involvement spans local politics, reelection campaigns, and advocacy for housing improvements for the elderly. Through Operation Green Team and other local initiatives, he has played a key role in making Huntsville a better place for all residents.

A Huntsville native, Mr. Tony McGinnis made his mark in athletics, excelling professionally as a basketball player however, his impact extends far beyond the court. After his professional career, he dedicated himself to youth development and education, holding leadership roles at the Boys & Girls Club (BGC) and the Huntsville Housing Authority (HHA). His passion for mentoring young people led him to become the Executive Director of the Harris Home for Children, a foster care facility supporting needy children.

As a lifelong mentor and nonprofit leader, Mr. Patrick Wynn has dedicated his career to shaping the future of Huntsville's youth. He serves on numerous local, regional, and national boards, including the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, where he is on the steering committee for the National and Southeast Regional Conferences.

Since its inception in 2018, the event has honored phenomenal leaders dedicated to service, mentorship, and uplifting others. As Goodway Lodge's biggest annual event, it continues to grow in attendance and impact, solidifying its place as a pillar of community engagement and excellence. The Brothers of Goodway look forward to continuing this tradition and celebrating many more incredible individuals in the years to come!

Contributor – WM Brian Johnson (No. 222)



Members of Goodway Lodge No. 222 and Lashay B at her Prom Dress Drive.



Members of Goodway Lodge No. 222 at their Annual All Black Party.

Obituaries

Brothers Called Home by the Grand Architect

Brother Tommie L. Young, a native of Bladon Springs, Alabama, and a longtime resident of Mobile since 1947, passed away peacefully on March 4, 2025. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Mattie Stephens Young; his mother, Willie Mae Henderson; his father, Edgar Odell Raine; his stepmother, Maude Lee Raine; his brothers, Jessie Lee Young, Eddie Gene Raine, Tommy Dale Raine and Allen Delon Raine; and his sisters, Mervie Ree Raine and Diane Parrish-Bosley.

Bro. Young confessed Christ early and united with Antioch Baptist Church in Bladon Springs in 1940. After relocating to Mobile in 1947, he became a devoted New Hope Baptist Church member on Dauphin Island Parkway. Later, he became a charter member of Christians United Church, where he served as a teacher of the Adult Men's Class and as chairman of the Deacons Ministry.

A man of outstanding dedication and service, Tommie was a Past Master of Olive Branch Lodge No. 1, F. & A.M., Past Grand Junior Steward of the MWPHGL of Alabama, and Past Grand District Deputy of District No. 1. He also honorably served his country as a United States Air Force veteran. After years of commitment to public safety, he retired as a Captain from the Mobile Fire Department. Bro. Tommie L. Young's legacy of faith, service, and love will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

He leaves to cherish his memory his loving children: daughters Danette, Danita, and Yvette Young, sons Thomas Konrad Young-Raine and Albert Lee Young, along with other extended family. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Mary Young, wife of the late Jessie Lee Young; his brothers, O.J. Raine and Otis (Ponzetta) Raine, and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and dear friends.



Bro. Tommie Lee Young

Reverend Leo Owens was born October 30, 1935, in Hillsboro, Alabama, to the late John Bobby and Ora Cranfield Owens. He made his peaceful transition at home on Monday, March 17, 2025, at Decatur Morgan Hospital-Decatur Campus, surrounded by his family.

Reverend Owens began his Christian journey early, joining Tried Stone Missionary Baptist Church in Courtland, Alabama. He later moved his membership to Westside Missionary Baptist Church, where he was ordained as a deacon. It was at Westside, under the leadership of Reverend J.I. McGahee, that he accepted his call to preach. Later, he went on to pastor his first church, Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church in Valhermoso Springs, Alabama. In 1967, he was called to pastor Bethel Colbert Missionary Baptist Church, Leighton, Alabama. He pastored Bethel for 50 years before retiring from pastoring in 2017. He continued to preach the Gospel until health issues prevented him from doing so. During his active years as a pastor, Reverend Owens served as Moderator of the Muscle Shoals Missionary Baptist Association and was an active member of the State and National Baptist Conventions. He was a Past Master of Ascension Lodge No. 72.

Reverend Owens received his formal education from Tennessee Valley High School and Calhoun Community College, receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from Selma University in 1982.

Reverend Owens' vocational career included various positions; however, he spent most of his work life at Monsanto Chemical Company. After over 30 years, he retired from Monsanto and devoted his time to pastoring. In April 1958, he married the love of his life, Ella Mae "Betty" Brown, and together they raised six children. Betty was a devoted wife and mother who worked tirelessly to support her husband. She played a huge part in the success of his ministry. They enjoyed 60 years of marriage until she was called home to be with the Lord in April 2019.

Reverend Owens is also preceded in death by his parents; six brothers: James Jones, Levolia Hobbs, Joseph Owens, Thomas Owens, Oscar Owens, and Willie Owens; three sisters, Johnny Mae Hill, Madge Watkins, and Sally Massey; and one grandson, Jeremy Owens.

He is survived by six children: Arthur Scales, Jr., Murphy (Crystal)Brown, Cassandra (Marvin) Rogers, Edward (Claudette) Owens, Dwight(Benita) Owens, and Glenda Owens; seventeen grandchildren; fifteen great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; one brother, Reverend John Bobby Owens, Jr; one sister, Mrs. Lillie Mae Robinson; two sisters-in-law, Betty Owens and Lucille Owens; a very special friend, Mrs. Rossie Noble; and a host of loving and committed nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.



Rev. Leo Owens
October 30, 1935 ~ March 17, 2025

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 1 June 2025.** These articles should include events from **April 2025 - June 2025**. 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.

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