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F. & A. M. of Alabama**

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**OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION NUMBER 10**

**May 9, 2016**

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

In accordance with the provisions of our *Constitution and By-laws* and in conformity with the action of our last Grand Lodge, you are hereby officially notified that the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. and A. M. of Alabama, will convene in its 146<sup>th</sup> (one-hundred thirty-eighth since consolidation) Annual Grand Lodge Communication, on Tuesday, July 19, 2016, at 8:30 a.m., at The Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, 2101 Richard Arrington, Jr. Boulevard North, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.

**GRAND LODGE OBLIGATIONS**

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

**REPRESENTATIVES**

Representation in the Grand Lodge will be in accordance with our Masonic laws, traditional Masonic usage, and customs. Lodges will be represented by their Worshipful Masters and/or Wardens. All Past Masters **MUST** obtain, from their subordinate lodge, a certificate or a statement duly signed by the

Master, attested by the Secretary, and sealed with the seal of the lodge, showing that they are in good standing with their subordinate lodges as of June 30, 2016. Reasonable proof may be requested as to Past Master's status. The above-mentioned certificate or statement filed with the Credentials Committee and proof of being current in all departments, including the temple renovation assessment, will entitle Past Masters to seats in the Grand Lodge. The June report of lodges to the Grand Secretary will be sufficient credentials for the representatives of the various subordinate lodges. However, all representatives will register with the Credentials Committee. At registration, representatives will receive an official badge, which will admit them to be seated in the Grand Lodge. The Credentials Committee will be stationed in the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel. **Reminder: Lodges must be current in its tax payments and all Brothers must be current in all payments owed to the Grand Lodge, including the building renovation assessment, in order to be seated in the Grand Lodge Session. This will be strictly enforced.**

### **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

The Welcome and Awards Program will be held on Monday, July 18, 2016, at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel in Birmingham, Alabama, at 6:00 p.m. We will utilize this time to welcome our guests and to award deserving Brothers who have made outstanding contributions to the organization over the past year. The local committee is planning an excellent Welcome and Awards Program, and all Master Masons are requested to be in Birmingham in time to attend the program.

The Lodge of Sorrow will be held on Tuesday evening, July 19, 2016, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, in Birmingham, Alabama. Every Master Mason is expected to attend. The Memorial Address will be delivered by Doctor Vernon Swift, President of the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention and Pastor of Elizabeth Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

### **MASONIC CLOTHES**

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

## **DAILY DEVOTIONS**

No man should ever enter upon any great and important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of Deity. Because our Annual Communication is such a great and important undertaking we will engage in daily devotions at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings until the sound of the gavel at 8:30 a.m. The devotions will be led by our Grand Chaplain, Right Worshipful Reverend E. Baxter Morris and/or his Committee of Chaplains. *O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. Psalm 34:3*

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Information about available accommodations has been provided to each lodge by the Grand Master and by the Grand District Deputies. Please be sure that you have made hotel reservations at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, located at 2101 Richard Arrington, Jr. Boulevard North, Birmingham, Alabama 35203 before you arrive. You may make your reservations directly by calling **1-205-324-5000** or **1-800-325-3535**. Ask for the **PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE ROOM BLOCK**. You may also make your reservations by going to **www.mwphglofal.org** and clicking on the “Reservations for Grand Lodge” banner or by going to **https://starwoodmeeting.com/Book/pricehall2016**.

## **MASONIC WORKSHOPS**

Masonic workshops for all Worshipful Masters, Secretaries, Treasurers, Wardens, other lodge officers, and any member who wishes to participate will be conducted on Monday, July 18, 2016, at 3:00 p.m., in the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, in Birmingham, Alabama. These workshops provide valuable information which will be helpful to all members.

## **STATEWIDE RAISING**

Our statewide raising will take place on Tuesday afternoon of our Annual Communication. Lodges are asked to bring their Fellowcrafts to be raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. It is not mandatory for lodges to bring their Fellowcrafts to be raised; however, I am asking for each lodge's support in this endeavor. Lodges must make sure that their Fellowcrafts bring black or dark blue suits, aprons, and gloves as they will be allowed to participate in the Lodge of Sorrow and in the business session on Wednesday morning. We raised forty-four Master Masons at our inaugural statewide raising. Let us do our best to increase the number of newly raised Brothers this year.

## **SOUVENIR JOURNAL**

**Every Grand Lodge Officer and every lodge** in the Jurisdiction of Alabama are **expected to purchase a mandatory one-page ad or to secure a**

**minimum of a one-page ad (\$100.00) from an external source.** All lodges should have already received the information about ads for the *Souvenir Journal* from their Grand District Deputies. If you have not received this information from your Grand District Deputies, you may go to our website, [www.mwphglf.org](http://www.mwphglf.org) and print the information off or call me immediately at 205-328-9078.

**All ads and all money must be sent to our Grand Secretary, R. W. George D. Echols, at Post Office Box 3967, Auburn, Alabama 36831-3967, on or before June 1, 2016. We must have 100% participation from every lodge in order to make this fundraiser a success.**

### **WORSHIPFUL MASTER'S CERTIFICATION & PAST MASTER'S DEGREE**

All newly elected Masters are required and are hereby instructed to be at the Grand Lodge Session, without exception. A **mandatory** Worshipful Master's Certification Seminar will take place on Monday, July 18, 2016, at 9:00 a.m., in the Birmingham Ballrooms of The Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, in Birmingham, Alabama. **Again, this certification is mandatory for newly elected Masters. All currently seated Masters are encouraged to attend the Worshipful Master's Certification Seminar, as well. If a newly elected Master does not attend the workshop in full, he will not be admitted into the passing and will not be allowed to serve as Worshipful Master of his lodge. All Grand District Deputies are instructed to hold new elections or place the most recent Past Master back in the seat.** The passing will be conducted on Wednesday, July 20, 2016, at 5:00 a.m. The Degree of Passing will only take place at the Grand Lodge Session.

**The Committee on Passing wishes to remind all newly elected Masters of the \$30.00 fee, payable by check or money order, that is required for *The Degree of Passing*, with no exceptions.**

### **GRAND LODGE OF ALABAMA CHOIR**

The Grand Lodge of Alabama Choir has become a staple in our Annual Communications. Dr. Marxlyn David, Grand Musician, has done an outstanding job in his first year in that position. He and the Grand Lodge Choir raised the bar at our 145<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication. In an effort to increase our choir membership we are soliciting the participation of more brothers. For those brothers who are interested, we ask that you please join our choir. Rehearsal will be held on Monday, July 18, 2016, at 1:00 p.m., in Forum E of the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, in Birmingham, Alabama.

## PROSPECTS

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

## REGIONAL DISTRICT MEETINGS

The Regional District Meetings were very successful this year. Attendance continues to increase tremendously. Valuable information was disseminated at each meeting followed by a question and answer period. Commendations are extended to all Grand District Deputies and thanks to all the brothers for their eager participation. Special thanks go to Right Worshipful Quinton Burrow, Aide to the Grand Master, and to the elected Grand Lodge Officers for all of their assistance.

## GRAND LODGE TAX AND ENDOWMENT DUES

**PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT EACH LODGE SEND ITS GRAND LODGE TAX TO THE GRAND SECRETARY BY DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> AND BY MAY 30<sup>TH</sup>.** All Worshipful Masters of all lodges are requested to send all Grand Lodge taxes to R. W. George D. Echols, Grand Secretary, Post Office Box 3967, Auburn, Alabama 36831-3967, as soon as possible—**BUT NOT LATER THAN JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> of each year.**

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

**THE GRAND LODGE IF HE IS NOT PAID UP TO CURRENT IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.** Take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly!

**REMINDER**

- A. Do not bring or send cash to the Grand Lodge office for any transaction; bring or send checks or money orders. Certified checks and money orders are preferred. Cash will not be accepted.**

**WARNING**

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

**In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Grand Lodge to be affixed and the same to be attested by the Grand Secretary on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 2016, A.L. 6016.**



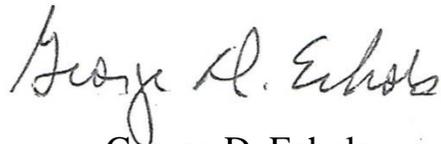
Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.

Most Worshipful Grand Master  
of the

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



Attested:



George D. Echols

Right Worshipful Grand Secretary  
of the

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